



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHONE: (831) 646-3760

CONTACT: Nat Rojanasathira, Assistant City Manager

EMAIL: rojanasathira@monterey.org

CITY STRONGLY ADVISES PUBLIC TO USE RECREATION TRAIL ONLY FOR COMMUTING TO AND FROM WORK

Monterey, CA – The City of Monterey announced today that a new public advisory to fight the COVID-19 pandemic went into effect to ensure that users of the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail remain within the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

The City is strongly advising the public to use the Recreation Trail only when commuting to and from work. Over the past several weeks, congestion along certain segments of the trail have made it virtually impossible for cyclists and pedestrians to maintain a six-foot distance to stay in compliance with the health order. Social distancing cannot be maintained with the level of crowds and clusters of Recreation Trail users, especially when the weather is fair.

“We know that social distancing works to flatten the curve and reduce the spread of COVID-19,” said City Manager Hans Uslar. “It is our job to follow the CDC’s guidelines and to do what is necessary to protect public health. This is not about someone’s desire to enjoy the beauty of the Monterey Bay while walking or jogging. This is all about preserving lives and reducing the workload for our professional healthcare providers. Our iconic Recreation Trail will be available for recreational use when the Stay at Home Order is over.”

NEWS RELEASE

(more)

During the Stay at Home Order, the City of Monterey encourages residents and the public to walk in their residential neighborhoods, especially in areas where a 6-foot social distancing can be maintained. While other communities in California have closed busy trails and parks, this advisory stops short of closing the Recreation Trail to all users. The City recognizes that the Recreation Trail is used by essential workers commuting to work, and asks that the public respect the advisory which allows the trail to be used by commuters as a critical bicycling and pedestrian thoroughfare between Downtown/Old Monterey and New Monterey. On Friday, April 3, 2020, signs were installed along the trail advising its use for commuting purposes only.

For more information about COVID-19 in Monterey, and how you can support your community, visit monterey.org/coronavirus.

