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*The City of South San Francisco*

*For Immediate Release*

**City of South San Francisco Government Moves to Modified Operations to Slow the Spread of COVID-19**

*City departments will continue to operate with modified services*

**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., March 17, 2020** - The City of South San Francisco has moved to modified operations with reduced staffing as a precautionary measure to help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and in compliance with the directive from the San Mateo County Health Officer that all residents should stay home for the next three weeks.

"We must do all we can to protect the public and our employees from the spread of COVID-19," says South San Francisco City Manager Mike Futrell. "Essential city services will remain fully operational, including police, fire and emergency medical services, but other city operations will serve the public only through online services, email or telephone, reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19."

City operations will continue, albeit with modified staffing, with all city buildings closed to the public, including those buildings normally offering over-the-counter service. Many city employees are working remotely from home, with other employees operating on an on-call basis for any emergency which may arise. Closures include City Hall, the Municipal Services Building, Public Works Headquarters, all libraries, the Magnolia Senior Center, the Community Learning Center, and park playgrounds. "Each and every one of us, including residents and businesses, must do our part by practicing social distancing and taking common sense infection control measures," says South San Francisco Mayor Rich Garbarino, "and that includes our workforce of city staff."

"Our approach balances the need to deliver vital public services with the need to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19 and follow the expert advice of county and state health officials," adds Futrell.

Today, seven public health officers representing six counties uniformly issued a legal Order asking residents to stay home, a unified step to slow the spread of COVID-19 and preserve critical health care capacity across the region, effective March 17 through April 7. To read the full press release, [click here](#). For view the full Order, [click here](#).

While this is a bold, unified action, public health officials are encouraging all of us to remain calm. Essential businesses, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and government functions will continue to remain open. Members of the public can continue to take walks or go for a hike outdoors, so long as social distancing is practiced.

The announcement comes as California Governor Gavin Newsom directed closure of bars, brewpubs and wineries, and called on people over 65 and others at high risk of serious complications from exposure to the virus to stay at home.

The City of South San Francisco is dedicated to providing as much information as possible concerning the COVID-19 health crisis. Up-to-date information can be found on the City website, [www.ssf.net/Coronavirus](http://www.ssf.net/Coronavirus). The County of San Mateo has established a call center available to answer questions, which can be reached by dialing 2-1-1. All residents are urged to shelter in place as much as possible, and to exercise regular measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as frequent hand washing and maintaining a social distance of six to ten feet wherever possible.

### ***About South San Francisco***

The City of South San Francisco proudly remains *The Industrial City*, a reflection of its steel mill and ship building past, redefined to reflect the innovative, entrepreneurial and industrious spirit which has made South San Francisco the Biotech Capital of the World, with 217 active biotech companies and growing. A vibrant community of 67,082 residents, South San Francisco enjoys a high quality of life with an extensive public parks system, active library and learning programming and a dynamic, engaged community making South San Francisco a great place to live, learn, work and play.