

# **DIVISION OF BUSINESS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

## **COVID-19 BRIEFING**

April 2, 2020

Unit: Public Safety

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**ACTION:** In an effort to address social distancing problems within CI Park, the main gate to the park will remain closed, thereby preventing large numbers of visitors from driving into the area and parking their vehicles.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY ISSUE(S):** In an effort to increase social distancing in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of California and the County of Ventura have issued public health orders mandating that people remain at home. Both orders have included exemptions allowing individuals to engage in exercise and other outdoor activities, including walking, hiking, bicycling, etc., as long as they do so in a manner that supports social distancing.

Many jurisdictions throughout the state have noted problems associated with large crowds of people visiting beaches, parks, hiking trails, and other similar areas, ignoring social distancing requirements.

As a result, California State Parks recently announced it is temporarily closing vehicle access at all 280 state parks to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Additionally, all areas of nearby Point Mugu State Park have been completely closed to the public. The County of Ventura also recently announced that all county parks are closed to the public. Local cities have taken similar hybrid measures to control the population of visitors to their parks and other attractions, primarily focused on those areas which have parking lots.

CSUCI police officers have recently noticed a significant increase in the number of people visiting CI Park.

**RECOMMENDATION:** On April 1, 2020, CSUCI police consulted with Conferences & Events to discuss this issue, and all agreed that, effective immediately (April 1, 2020), the gate to CI Park on Camarillo Street will remain closed to prevent large numbers of visitors from driving into the park. The park remains open for now, and is available for local visitors to walk, hike, bike, etc. but vehicles are not able to enter the park. The area along Camarillo Street just outside the park gate remains a 'No Parking' zone, and additional signs have been placed to prevent parking in that area as well.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** N/A

**CURRENT UPDATE:** N/A

**SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS:** N/A