



# Letter from the Mayor



THE CITY OF  
**HALF MOON BAY**  
CALIFORNIA

## July 14, 2020 - Letter from Mayor Eisen

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Dear Half Moon Bay Community ([Para ver esta carta en español, oprime aquí](#)),

Hi everyone – hope your week is off to a great start. We’ve had such beautiful weather lately, haven’t we? How lucky we are to live where we do, even with what’s going on. Lots of important updates and announcements in this week’s letter. Please take the time to read through each item and familiarize yourself with some upcoming important things.

### **COVID-19 Update / Governor Orders Statewide Shutdown of Additional Indoor Sectors:**

As we reported via Special eNews yesterday, amid a statewide spike in COVID-19 cases, Governor Newsom ordered the immediate re-closure of additional sectors throughout the state – including in San Mateo County. These include:

- Dine-in restaurants (indoor)
- Wineries and tasting rooms (indoor)
- Movie theaters (indoor)
- Family entertainment centers (indoor)
- Zoos and museums (indoor)
- Cardrooms (indoor)
- Brewpubs, breweries, bars, and pubs (indoor and outdoor)

Outdoor dining is still permitted.

There were additional sectors ordered to close for counties that are on the State’s monitoring list. San Mateo County is not on that list at this time. To view the Governor’s order and the State’s watch list, please visit [www.covid19.ca.gov](http://www.covid19.ca.gov). You can view San Mateo County’s health data dashboard [here](#). Our City Manager will provide a local update on COVID-19 recovery at the beginning of Tuesday’s City Council meeting.

### **City Council to Consider Ballot Measure to Increase Transient Occupancy Tax (hotel tax):**

The nationwide recession that came about due to the COVID-19 pandemic has had severe negative economic impacts on businesses and residents in Half Moon Bay. Additionally, a major impact is a significant reduction in revenue collected by the City, even as there is increased need for City services to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and support local economic recovery.

Because of this reduction in revenues, the City Council will consider, at its meeting next Tuesday, whether to place a measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot to raise the

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT or hotel tax) from the current 12% up to 15%.

Additional revenue generated by this measure could be used to support economic recovery and financial stability, to maintain City services including, for example law enforcement services, disaster/emergency preparedness, and support of local businesses and residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recession. These outcomes support the desires of our residents to improve quality of life services in the City.

This is not a citywide tax on residents - the TOT is paid only by guests staying at hotels and other short-term overnight accommodations in the City of Half Moon Bay. Passage of this measure could bring in additional revenue of up to \$1.5 million per year for City services.

There will be a lengthy staff report provided at Tuesday's meeting prior to the Council's decision on whether to place the measure on the ballot. Please join the meeting if you have any questions or concerns, and to voice your opinion.

### **Study Session - Impact of Issues Related to Beach Access, Tuesday at 5:30:**

Prior to next Tuesday's Council meeting there will be a study session (5:30 PM) to discuss the overall impacts of issues related to beach access and parking. A number of related questions and concerns will be examined, such as public safety, permit parking, and traffic calming. Each of these issues has multiple layers and various options will be presented, including benefits and drawbacks of each. Staff will walk the community and Council through the issue, and outline possible ways to move forward with available resources and permitting requirements that will be involved.

### **Webinar: Latinos and COVID-19 – Why Latinos Have the Highest Number of COVID Infections:**

Make sure to join this webinar tomorrow (Wednesday) for an important discussion on why Latinos have the highest numbers of COVID infections in San Mateo County, how they can protect themselves and their families, where to get tested, and what to do when a test result comes back positive. A portion of the webinar will include information about mental health, primarily around how to handle fear and anxiety as a result of the pandemic. There will also be updates on the most recent County Health Order.

This event will be hosted in Spanish on Wednesday July 15, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. via Facebook Live on the San Mateo County Sheriff's [CARON Facebook page](#).

### **Goat Grazing at Beachwood Property Starting the Week of July 20:**

You might notice some herds of goats at the Beachwood Property soon! As part of the City's efforts to control overgrown and potentially fire-hazardous vegetation in an environmentally friendly way, a herd of goats has been "hired" to graze their way through the Beachwood property. Mitigating fire hazards and increasing pest control is particularly important this time of year, and the goats are a low-cost, minimally invasive way to deal with the vegetation.

While the goat herder is responsible for setting up the paddock, City staff has provided detailed maps to herders clearly outlining sensitive areas.

### **Solid Waste Sorting:**

Do you know how to sort your waste? If items are sorted correctly before pickup, you are doing your part to help reduce contamination and decrease the amount of materials that end up in the landfill.

We have put together all the information you need to know about trash, recycling, organic waste, and how to get rid of bulky or hazardous waste safely. Check our resources out on

our new [Recycling Organics and Garbage web page](#).

### **Library Curbside Pickup Hours Expanding to Five Days a Week:**

Enjoy more opportunities to dive into your next great reading adventure with San Mateo County Library's [Curbside Pickup](#)! County Libraries contactless pickup service is expanding to five days per week beginning Tuesday, July 14. New hours will be from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday at all County Library [locations](#), including Half Moon Bay.

Using Curbside Pickup is simple: browse [smcl.org](#) and place your items on hold; wait until you're notified that your hold is available and then schedule your pickup date; arrive during your scheduled appointment and enjoy your items! The Library's [Customer Care](#) team, whose hours now match Curbside Pickup, can guide you through any questions.

### **July 21, 2020 City Council Meeting:**

Next week's Council meeting will include items that may be of interest to you. Take a look at the list below, and if you're interested, watch for our agenda packet to be published by Friday evening, and join us next Tuesday (via Zoom).

- Impacts of Beach Access Study Session – **5:30 p.m.**
- Consideration of TOT Increase Ballot Measure
- Announcement of Youth Art Contest Winners
- COVID-19 Update from the City Manager
- Capital Improvement Program Adoption
- Agreement with PG&E for PSPS Community Resource Center at Library
- Amendment to Parks Use Ordinance

As always, feel free to [email me](#) with any comments or concerns. And be sure to stay informed by visiting the [City's COVID-19 Daily Updates webpage](#), and our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Nextdoor](#) feeds.

Together in partnership,

Adam Eisen  
Mayor  
[COVID-19 Daily Updates](#)

