



April 7, 2020

To the Citizens of Yucaipa:

I would like to thank you once again for doing your part as we work together to defeat this invisible enemy, COVID-19.

On April 2, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 crisis can apply for a loan from the federal government for up to \$10 million. Importantly, the program is first come, first served and the Governor encourages all eligible California small businesses to contact their lender to learn more. The Governor also announced that the state is allocating \$50 million to the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank for loan guarantees to small businesses to help eliminate barriers to capital for individuals who do not qualify for federal funds, including low income and undocumented immigrant communities.

Once again, the City would like to offer staff support for small businesses in your efforts to access these funds in any way we can be of service. Please contact Caroline Velarde via email at cvelarde@yucaipa.org or via phone at 909-797-2489, ext. 227 for assistance.

The state is also allowing the deferral of sales tax payments up to \$50,000, for a period of 12 months, which will provide needed relief to small businesses and protect workers. This action will have a significant impact on our local budget, as sales tax makes up approximately 18% of the City's revenue. Revenues from sales tax fund essential services in our community such as fire protection, police, code enforcement, and other public facilities and services essential to our community.

Fortunately, as a result of a long-term fiscally conservative approach to budgeting, the City has reserve funds available to help see us through this difficult economic time. The City's annual budget is developed using very conservative, "worst case scenario" strategies as it relates to the General Fund.

In keeping with public health orders and recommendations, the City has temporarily closed offices and facilities, including City Hall, from direct public access. However, staff remains available Monday through Saturday from 6:30am to 7:00pm by phone or email in order to continue to provide services for our customers and citizens. Contact information is available on the City's website at www.yucaipa.org, or you can contact City Hall at 909-797-2489. City staff is still reviewing plans, issuing permits, and performing inspections. The City is also extending business license renewals until June 1, 2020.

Currently, all City parks remain open for passive recreational activities. However, park amenities and restrooms have been closed. The City will continue to monitor park activities to ensure that residents are practicing social distancing. This is consistent with a number of other cities in our County. Hopefully, the focus and efforts of our COVID-19 educational outreach will help limit inappropriate "gathering" in our community. As we all know by now, this is an extremely important part of our nationwide strategy for defeating this invisible enemy.

Residents of Yucaipa are encouraged to stay home while only participating in essential activities, such as essential work functions and shopping for necessities. We know these measures are challenging but staying at home and social distancing will help to protect all in our community and hopefully get us back to "normal" soon.

Sincerely,

David Avila
Mayor