Plan for Safe Construction During the COVID-19 Health Crisis

The initial Shelter in Place Order as well as the updated order of March 31, 2020 allow for the safe resumption of public works, residential and commercial development projects deemed “essential”. The construction industry has come together during this pandemic to collaborate on a plan to safely resume work on additionally designated essential development projects in Santa Clara County. The safe resumption of work on additional public works, residential and commercial development projects will assist in addressing the dire need to provide housing options to our most vulnerable populations negatively impacted during this pandemic and pave the way for an accelerated economic and public health recovery once normalcy returns.

Our plan will fully implement the published Santa Clara County Public Health Department’s COVID-19 Construction Field Safety Guidelines on all projects for as long as the public health officials determine they are necessary. In addition, we have augmented these stringent guidelines to reduce the number of non-work related trips and human interactions and to ensure that any personal protective equipment utilized by individual crafts does not reduce the number available to our health care professionals.

This plan is a minimum standard for the resumption of work on development projects and can be augmented with additional requirements as the science and information evolves during this pandemic per the Public Health Director. Direction, guidance and counsel from our county public health professionals will be relied upon as this draft plan is evaluated and eventually implemented.

PPE
At no time will a contractor secure PPE at the detriment of our health care providers. All construction industry PPE are markedly different from health care industry/medical grade PPE. Other than a limited amount of N95 masks for those taking temperatures of workers prior to their entry into jobsites and for custodial workers, there is no overlap of PPE.

Only non-medical grade 3M Half Facepiece Respirator 6000 Series, Reusable masks will be used. Please see product description attachment.

1 The following plan is the result of collaboration among the Building Trades Councils of Santa Clara & San Benito, Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa & Solano, Marin & Sonoma, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties, as well as the affiliated unions; UA Local 393, IBEW Local 332, SMART Local 104, and UA Local 483.

COVID-19 Community Spread Reduction Plan

- Carpooling to and from the work site is banned unless the workers are living within the same household.
- Stops to and from home and the work site are banned. Workers must commit to driving directly to and from work with no additional stops along the way. Those who are deemed to have violated this requirement will be initially warned and a second violation will result in dismissal from the job site.
- To reduce the number of stops while traveling to or from the work site, a mobile gasoline vendor will be procured for both commercial and worker vehicles. The vendor will be made available to workers on a regular basis at each respective jobsite.
- Any worker that leaves the jobsite during their shift will not be allowed to return to work that day.
- Workers must bring their own lunch, snacks and water. Sharing of any of these items is strictly prohibited and if observed the worker will be sent home for the day.
- Use of microwaves, water coolers, and other similar group equipment for breaks is suspended until further notice.
- Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from one another.

COVID-19 Safety Compliance Officer Job Site Responsibilities

The plan’s components include, but are not limited to; Assigning a COVID-19 Safety Compliance Officer (SCO) to each job site who will conduct a daily job site social distancing compliant briefing for workers that will reinforce safety requirements, include a basic health screening of workers and solicit feedback from workers. Topics and actions that will be covered include;

- Temperature check and health screening questions posed to workers prior to entering the worksite (To be conducted by a gloved and masked SCO—Those with high temperatures and/or those that disclose symptoms or potential exposure to COVID-19 will not be permitted on work site)
- New job site rules and pre-job site travel restrictions for the prevention of COVID-19 community spread,
- Sanitation and hygiene procedures,
- Solicitation of worker feedback on improving safety and sanitation,
- Coordination of construction site daily cleaning/sanitation requirements,
- Conveying updated information regarding COVID-19, and
- Emergency protocols in the event of an exposure or suspected exposure to COVID-19.

The Safety Compliance Officer will ensure implementation of all recommended safety and sanitation requirements regarding the COVID-19 virus at their respective job sites. SCO will have training commensurate with their required tasks in this plan and be familiar with all required sanitation practices required by this plan.

The SCO will compile daily written verification that each job site is compliant with the components of this plan. Each written verification form will be copied, stored and made immediately available upon request by any county official.
Safe Construction Plan April 14, 2020

The SCO will report noncompliance of this plan to the appropriate job site supervisors, designated county official and work with all partners on an immediate remediation plan to address noncompliance.

**COVID-19 Building Trades Jobsite Safety Accountability Supervisor Responsibilities**

To provide robust accountability and an additional layer of oversight of the Plan for Safe Construction in Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council (BTC), utilizing trained workers from our affiliates, will deploy Jobsite Safety Accountability Supervisors (JSAS) to monitor compliance at each job site. Each JSAS will be trained in the protocols set forth in the Plan for Safe Construction developed in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Their duties will include:

- Verification that the Contractor is adhering to the requirements set forth in the Plan for Safe Construction.
- Visual verification that cleaning and sanitizing protocols are being performed.
- Visual verification that social distancing protocols are being maintained.
- Interviews of random workers to verify that all protocols set forth in the plan are adhered to.
- After each jobsite visit, the JSAS will complete a written assessment form validating that all components of plan are being adhered to. Each written assessment form will be copied, stored and sent to the proper county official.
- If the JSAS discovers noncompliance, the JSAS will work with the jobsite SCO on an immediate remediation plan to address the noncompliance. Documentation of the noncompliance must be made with the written remediation plan attached.
- The BTC will remain in constant communication with the County to ensure that every active jobsite will be monitored by the BTC for compliance with the plan.

**Job Site Social Distancing Protocols**

- Establish staggered stop/start time shift schedules to spread out and reduce workers on any given location within a job site.
- Stagger trades conducting work so that the bare minimum of workers are in any section of the job site at any one time.
- Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from one another at all times. To improve compliance, establish visual markers to clearly delineate six feet separation.

**Cleaning schedules and cleaning and sanitizing protocols**

The schedule and cleaning and sanitizing protocol of each area should be based on its type and frequency of use per CDC guidelines

- All surfaces must be thoroughly wiped down with acceptable cleaning and sanitizing products.
- Areas to be cleaned and sanitized after each use; Jobsite, contractor and subcontractor safety meeting areas, individual contractor and subcontractor daily work distribution meeting areas, designated jobsite lunch and break areas
- Areas to be continuously cleaned and sanitized: Entrances and Exits to the jobsite,

Jobsite trailers, Jobsite restroom areas, stairs, elevators and lifts
- Personnel performing the jobsite cleaning and sanitizing must be supplied with the proper PPE to prevent them from contracting COVID-19.
- A designated bio-waste container will be provided for the disposal of any disposable PPE worn by the cleaning and sanitizing personnel.
- This bio-waste will be disposed of following the Santa Clara County Health Departments protocol for the disposal of bio-waste.
- Install hand-washing stations and non-touch waste bins in multiple locations.
- Post, in areas visible to all workers, required hygienic practices including not touching face; and washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Jobsite trailers
- Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from one another at all times within trailers. To improve compliance, establish visual markers to clearly delineate six feet separation.
- Use of microwaves, water coolers, and other similar group equipment for breaks is suspended until further notice.
- Install hand-washing stations and non-touch waste bins.
- Post, in areas visible to all workers, required hygienic practices including not touching face; and washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Maintain a daily attendance log of all workers and visitors to the job site.

Jobsite restroom areas
- Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from one another at all times. To improve compliance, establish visual markers to clearly delineate six feet separation.
- Install hand-washing station and non-touch waste bins.
- Post, in areas visible to all workers, required hygienic practices including not touching face; and washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Jobsite, contractor and subcontractor safety and work distribution meeting areas
- Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from one another at all times. To improve compliance, establish visual markers to clearly delineate six feet separation.
- Use of microwaves, water coolers, and other similar group equipment for breaks is suspended until further notice.
- Install hand-washing station and non-touch waste bins.
- Post, in areas visible to all workers, required hygienic practices including not touching face; and washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Maintain a daily attendance log of all workers and visitors

Jobsite designated break areas
- Workers must bring their own water, meals and snacks to work. Sharing is prohibited. Workers are not allowed to exit the jobsite at any time and will not be allowed back to work for the day if they leave.
Safe Construction Plan April 14, 2020

- Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from one another at all times. To improve compliance, establish visual markers to clearly delineate six feet separation.
- Install hand-washing stations and non-touch waste bins.
- Post, in areas visible to all workers, required hygienic practices including not touching face; and washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

COVID-19 Exposure Plan
In the event of a COVID-19 exposure at any job site the following will take place:
- Immediate removal of infected individual from the job site with directions to seek medical care,
- Contact tracing of each area the exposed worker was at and any workers in those areas will be immediately notified and ordered to decontaminate in a designated location at each job site,
- Each location the infected worker was at will be decontaminated and sanitized by an outside vendor certified in hazmat clean ups,
- The county health department will be notified and any additional requirements per the county health officials will be performed.

Prioritizing Projects
The proponents of this plan are committed to completing projects that include, but are not limited to those listed in the Current Shelter in Place Order Explained section of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department’s website. Projects that are intended to house our homeless population will be made a priority when deciding which projects go before others. We understand that part of any COVID-19 community spread reduction plan must include a safe and secure place for people to live. We will work with each respective county and city planning department and public health officials to identify and build projects that are near completion that incorporate units for our most vulnerable populations.

4 https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#explained