

COVID-19 Update From EKA – May 19, 2020

Stay At Home Order Day 62

Today is day 62 of the [statewide "Stay-at-Home" Order](#). 70 days ago, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Pandemic. Safer at Home orders have been in place in Los Angeles since March 19.

If you have any COVID-19 government or communications questions, please reach out to any member of the EKA team. If you have a specific COVID-19 question, click [here](#) and we will attempt to answer it in our update. Feel free to share our COVID-19 updates with friends and colleagues. Our previous COVID-19 updates can be found [here](#).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

L.A. County Courts

All L.A. County courtrooms will be closed for judicial business until June 22, except for time-sensitive functions. Traffic and non-traffic citation matters will not be heard before June 22. People who had hearings scheduled for citations before that date should not go to court and will be mailed notifications for hearing dates after June 22. The court offers some options online to resolve traffic and non-traffic citation matters without having to go to court, along with options for people who are experiencing financial hardship in paying traffic tickets. Previously, Presiding Judge Kevin Brazile announced that Los Angeles County courtrooms will remain closed for judicial business through June 10 except for those handling time-sensitive, essential functions. The court clerk's office is set to reopen June 15. The county court system requires face coverings, with limited exceptions, by judicial officers, employees and all court visitors in addition to social distancing. Hand sanitizer and wipes are to be at courthouse entrances, inside courtrooms and other high-traffic areas. To read the 11-page press release and Order, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Help For Renters and Landlords

As L.A. County has launched two new rent relief programs: the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (for residential tenants) and the Rent Relief program (for landlords of the 2nd district). These programs provide a lifeline to income-eligible renters and mom-and-pop landlords in some unincorporated areas of L.A. County. Those eligible for this program must be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic - whether it's through job loss, furloughs or reduction in hours or pay. If found eligible, the Rental Assistance Program provides rent payments to property owners on behalf of a household, up to \$1,000 per month, for three months. Rent relief for landlords is available for residents of the [Second Supervisorial District](#). For full details on the programs, click [here](#). Renters can [click here](#) to apply or dial 2-1-1. Applications for both programs must be received by May 31, 2020.

L.A. County Directives for Restarting Entertainment Production

It appears unlikely that the County will offer exemptions from the mandatory closure/work-from-home directive, which is likely to continue through July. As noted previously, the County revised the "[Safer at Home](#)" Order to further clarify their definition of an "Essential Business." The prior version of the "Safer at Home" Order defined "Essential Businesses" as "Newspapers, television, radio, magazine, podcast and journalism," the new addendum changed the definition to "Newspapers, television *news*, radio, magazine, podcast and journalism." This means that the County does not consider entertainment-related content production (or videogame development) to be essential. As a reminder, the County released a [5 Stage Roadmap to Recovery](#); production falls into the Stage 3 category of higher-risk businesses. A [motion](#) introduced by Los Angeles Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell requests the Office of Citywide Filming and FilmLA to prepare reports and recommendations in conjunction with experts throughout the creative industry. It is likely that the entertainment industry will receive updates from the government task force near the end of this month.

Restaurants To Seat Customers Outdoors

The [City of Sierra Madre](#) (located between Pasadena and Arcadia) is allowing more than a dozen restaurant owners in to reopen for dine-in service by allowing outdoor seating and dining throughout downtown Sierra Madre. The initiative will provide for permitting the use of some private parking lots to use as dining areas, permitting the use of sidewalk areas beyond traditional constraints, and permitting the use of some street parking stalls for seating. The City said that the additional space on the sidewalk and parking areas will add about 400 square feet of dining space to each restaurant. To view the CBS story on this initiative, click [here](#).

Flouting Of Rules

County health officials said hundreds of businesses reopened over the weekend without adhering to health restrictions, and some beachgoers flouted rules mandating face coverings and social distancing. The County said that inspectors visited over 1,600 businesses and found that over 1,000 businesses were not in compliance with the [Safer At Home](#) directives. The County estimated that one million people left their homes over the weekend, and with an estimated countywide infection rate of about 4%, as many as 40,000 of those people could have been infected with COVID-19, regardless of whether they were showing any symptoms

Metro App

Metro's said that their GoMetro app, which is outdated is being phased out. The new transit app will include accurate real-time arrival information for buses and trains as well as step-by-step navigation with Transit's G.O. feature. Riders will be able to plan trips with transfers within Metro and to other agencies, along with the ability to combine public transit with options like Metro Bike Share and private rideshare services.

COVID-19 Incident Update

The L.A. County Emergency Operation Center's COVID-19 disaster response team has released their latest high-level summary. To view the 11-page incident update, click [here](#).

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles City Council

Below are the items the EKA team is tracking this week in the City Council.

Item	Description	Council File
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May 19 Council Meeting Agenda Items

14	CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION and COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD OF AIRPORT COMMISSIONERS (BOAC) relative to amending the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) lease agreement with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, a Professional Corporation.	20-0512
16	ADMINISTRATIVE EXEMPTION and COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD OF AIRPORT COMMISSIONERS (BOAC) relative to amending the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) contract with SITA Information Networking Computing USA, Inc APPROVE the LAWA contract with SITA Information Networking Computing USA, Inc., for a term of five years with three one-year renewal options, for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of a consolidated common use platform at Los Angeles International Airport.	20-0508
17	CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION (BUSCAINO - RODRIGUEZ) relative to establishing the City's position regarding any legislation or administrative action which would enact or implement the components of the California League of Cities COVID-19 Fiscal Impacts to California Cities Agenda.	20-0002-S65
20	MOTION (O'FARRELL - MARTINEZ) relative to AB1290 funding for small businesses grants. TRANSFER and APPROPRIATE \$1,000,000 in the AB1290 Fund to be utilized for providing grants to small businesses, with 26 or fewer employees located in the 13th Council District, with the understanding that all grants would be subject to program guidelines to be developed by the EWDD.	20-0582
21	MOTION (O'FARRELL - MARTINEZ) relative to funding to support A Bridge Home (ABH) sites.	20-0586

May 20 Council Meeting Agenda Items

1	PRESENTATION OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED 2020-21 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, related Motions and Resolutions.	<u>20-0600</u>
19	<p>CONSIDERATION OF MOTION (O'FARRELL - KREKORIAN) relative to funding for the Hollywood Walk of Fame Public Improvements Project (Project) located along Hollywood Boulevard.</p> <p>AUTHORIZE the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to develop a strategic Master Plan and Schematic Design documents for the entire Walk of Fame, and to conduct the initial environmental reviews and any other relevant documentation necessary for a planned Pilot of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$4,082,572 plus all earned interest in Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles Excess Non-Housing Bond Proceeds from the Hollywood Redevelopment Project Area already set aside under previous Council action.</p>	<u>14-1174-S40</u>
20	<p>MOTION (O'FARRELL - KREKORIAN) relative to making it unlawful for a third-party food delivery service to charge a restaurant a fee per online Order for the use of its services that totals more than 15 percent of the purchase price of such online Order during the local public health emergency related to COVID-19.</p> <p>REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance that will make it unlawful for a third-party food delivery service to charge a restaurant a fee per online Order for the use of its services that totals more than 15 percent of the purchase price of such online Order during the local public health emergency related to COVID-19 as declared by the Mayor.</p>	<u>20-0470</u>
21	<p>MOTION (KORETZ - RYU) relative to funding for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Subsidy (ERAS) Program.</p> <p>TRANSFER and APPROPRIATE \$50,000 from the Council District 5 General City Purpose Fund No. 100/56, Account No. 0705 (CD 5 Community Services) to the Housing and Community Investment Department COVID-19 ERAS Program Trust Fund to assist eligible renters in Council District 5.</p>	<u>20-0591</u>

LONG BEACH

Street Sweeping Enforcement

While street sweeping has continued in the City throughout COVID-19, Long Beach has not issued sweeping street tickets for the past two months. Although Long Beach's "[Safer at Home](#)" Order remains in place and has been extended indefinitely, Mayor Robert Garcia has emphasized repeatedly throughout the crisis that street sweeping is necessary to keep the City's streets, gutters and water supply clean. For the past two weeks, the City has placed notices on cars to inform folks that enforcement would soon begin again. Residents who are still staying at home can get free parking permits for lots and garages across the City to avoid the \$70 ticket. For information on getting a parking permit, click [here](#). As noted in the County section, to help riders quickly the info they need, Metro announced a new partnership with the popular [Transit app](#) for smartphones and tablets. Transit now becomes Metro's official app, replacing the agency's own app that will be phased out.

Meals for Seniors

Long Beach said it will offer a second free home meal delivery service for older adults in an effort to further assist adults at high risk of COVID-19 and to provide essential economic stimulus to local eateries during the health crisis. Long Beach is joining the Great Plates program in partnership with the Governor. The City has released a [request for proposals](#) to contract with multiple Long Beach food providers to prepare and package the meals. The Great Plates Delivered Program will provide up to three free nutritious meals delivered daily to qualified adults older than 65 years of age or adults 60-64 who are at high risk of COVID-19, in partnership with local food providers and restaurants. Restaurants and food providers interested in participating in the program are encouraged to complete the RFP process. Participation preference will be given to businesses that are locally owned and/or locally sourced, prioritize local jobs and worker retention, and provide meals that can be frozen and reheated, as well as meet nutritional standards and other safe food handling procedures in accordance with [State guidelines](#). To participate in the RFP process, interested business owners should visit the Financial Management [Purchasing Division webpage](#). The RFP period closes at 11 a.m. this Thursday, May 21. Additional details are provided in the proposal. The City will select multiple local food providers for participation in the program. The Long Beach version of the program is expected to begin on May 29, 2020, and continue through June 10, the timeframe approved by FEMA. The State of California intends to request an extension of the program into July.

VENTURA COUNTY

More Business Permitted to Reopen in Ventura County

The Ventura County Public Health Officer issued a modified Ventura County Stay Well V.C. Order that allows low-risk businesses such as retail and the manufacturing and supply chain businesses that support them to reopen. The Order was also amended to allow for dog groomers, car washes, landscaping/gardening services, and outside museums to also reopen. Office based businesses are also included in the Order, however the County still encourages remote working. Along with the Order came new requirements, which include a series of steps for businesses, including essential businesses to implement. To read the Ventura County Press

release, click [here](#). To read the Health Order, click [here](#).

SACRAMENTO

Cal/OSHA Releases New Guidelines for General Industry on COVID-19

Cal/OSHA released updated [Interim Guidelines for General Industry on 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#). They posted an early version of Interim Guidelines on March 4, which included a very limited set of infection prevention measures and a recommendation to follow CDC guidelines, including the recommendation to create an infectious disease outbreak response plan. The newly updated Cal/OSHA Interim Guidelines provide an expanded list of specific prevention measures for incorporation into your IIPP, and affirmatively states: "For most California workplaces, adopting changes to their IIPP is mandatory since COVID-19 is widespread in the community." This makes it clear that Cal/OSHA expects employers to update their IIPP with listed COVID-19 infection prevention measures and to provide additional employee training. The updated Interim Guidelines reiterate that an employer must provide adequate washing facilities, have suitable cleansing agents and supplies, and provide any necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for employees. Certain measures now recommended by Cal/OSHA vary in nuanced ways from CDC Guidelines. Cal/OSHA released [industry guidance for logistics and warehousing facilities](#) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the guidance, Cal/OSHA released a helpful [checklist](#) to assist logistics and warehousing employers in implementing their plans to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

Governor Loosens Some Reopening Rules

The Governor loosened restrictions for areas of the state seeking to reopen nonessential businesses amid the coronavirus pandemic. Updated orders [detailed on the governor's website](#) indicated that counties will no longer be blocked from entering phase two of the state's reopening plan if they have seen a fatality from a coronavirus case in the past two weeks. The looser restrictions include requirements that counties have no more than a 5% increase in hospitalizations over a seven-day period, have no more than an 8% positive rate among people tested for coronavirus and have 15 trained patient-contact-tracing workers per 100,000 population. The state may be able to significantly ease restrictions statewide in the next few weeks, possibly allowing professional sporting events to resume without spectators and hair salons to reopen in June. Under the new rules 53 of the state's 58 counties would likely qualify to move deeper into Phase Two of the state's recovery roadmap, allowing more businesses in those counties to open faster than in some other counties. The Governor said that L.A. County is in a different position than other parts of the state, and said that the County will likely be cautious" in relaxing local restrictions.

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

Due to a large volume of comments submitted to the Office of Administrative Law, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control submitted its Emergency Regulatory Package

regarding Administrative Emergency Decisions for public comment and review. As outlined in the Department's [Notice of Proposed Emergency Rulemaking published May 11, 2020](#), the proposed regulatory package will have a five-calendar-day comment period beginning May 18, 2020, that is administered by the Office of Administrative Law. It will close on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, due to the fifth day falling on a weekend and the state holiday on Monday, May 25, 2020. Anyone who wishes to submit any written comments to the Office of Administrative Law should email OALReferenceAttorney@oal.ca.gov.

NATIONAL

COVID-19 Reopening Guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is advising employers to take steps to protect employees at higher risk of severe illness before reopening. As noted in the Sacramento section, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued specific industry alerts for businesses operating during the COVID-19 pandemic and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released guidance for [office workspaces](#) and [logistics and warehousing facilities](#). As we noted previously, the CDC released one-page "decision tree" tools for [workplaces](#) and [restaurants and bars](#) considering reopening. The CDC suggests businesses do not open if they are not prepared to protect employees at higher risk of severe illness. Workers at higher risk include those 65 years or older and those with underlying medical conditions such as moderate to severe asthma or chronic lung disease, serious heart conditions, diabetes, severe obesity (defined as a body mass index of 40 or higher), chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis, liver disease, or those who are immunocompromised by cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, smoking, or poorly controlled HIV or AIDS. The CDC also advised employers to adopt safety, health, and monitoring practices.

COVID-19 Privacy Measure

Last week two members of Congress introduced the [COVID-19 Consumer Data Protection Act](#). The Democratic measure, dubbed the PHEPA aims to provide clearly defined privacy rights for consumers and strong enforcement to safeguard these rights as industry pursues digital contact tracing efforts. Similar to Senate Republicans' proposal, PHEPA would require companies to obtain express consent in order to collect, use or disclose emergency health data for the purposes of tracking the spread of COVID-19. PHEPA requires covered entities to delete or de-identify all personally identifiable information when it is no longer being used for the health emergency and prohibits entities from using or maintaining emergency health data of an individual more 60 days after the termination of the public health emergency declaration. Under PHEPA, the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general are given enforcement authority. To read the 30-page PHEPA legislation, click [here](#).

New CDC Guidance

The CDC released an Official Health Advisory, providing background information on a recently reported multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19

and a case definition for this syndrome. Click [here](#) to view the advisory. To view other CDC updates, click on the links below.

- [COVID-19 Serology Surveillance](#)
- [CDC Seroprevalence Survey Types](#)
- [CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again](#)
- [How to Get CDC's COVID-19 Diagnostic Test and Supplies](#)

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

Class Action Lawsuit

The [Ivy Room](#), a San Francisco Bay Area-based music venue, filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of California-based music venues against a major insurance provider, saying the venues were wrongfully denied coverage for losses resulting from public health shutdowns related to COVID-19 despite having paid premiums for business interruption policies. The lawsuit alleges, among other things, that First Mercury Insurance Co. acted in bad faith by categorically denying claims from music venues arising from California's mandated interruption of business services. According to the complaint, First Mercury denies the claims with little or no investigation and without regard for the interests of policyholders. The [American Property Casualty Insurance Association](#), the largest trade group representing P/C insurers, has argued if insurers are forced to pay for losses that are not covered under existing insurance policies, "the stability of the sector could be impacted and that could affect the ability of consumers to address everyday risks that are covered by the property casualty industry." Business interruption policies were generally not designed to provide coverage against communicable diseases, [according to a statement](#) in March from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. To read the complaint, click [here](#).

Challenge of Governor's Coronavirus Beach Closures

A judge has officially rejected Huntington Beach's legal challenge against the Governor's beach closures, saying the beaches are now open for active use while also pointing to Supreme Court precedent that liberties are not absolute when a state is fighting a disease epidemic. With the ruling, all of the known legal challenges to the beach restrictions have been rejected by state and federal courts. Dana Point was part of Huntington Beach's lawsuit, but its City Council decided to withdraw last week. In the ruling, the court credits both sides in the Huntington Beach case – city officials and the Governor – for their "joint efforts to provide public access to the beaches while protecting public safety." Under the City's beach reopening plan approved by the Governor last week, people can use the beach for walking, running, hiking, bicycle riding, swimming, surfing, body surfing, boogie boarding, kit surfing, paddle boarding, skim boarding, kayaking and fishing. To read the full-ruling by Superior Court Judge Nathan Scott, click [here](#).

QUESTIONS EKA HAS RECEIVED

We have read articles in the EKA updates that Ultraviolet LEDs help to eliminate COVID-19. We have also seen stories that say the lights are not very useful. Can you help clarify the different stories?

EKA contacted a lighting engineer with the question. The engineer said that the lights may (or may not) do what people want them to do, depending on the spectrum that the light emits, and the time and proximity it is to what it is shining on. The engineer said it also depends on if there is a direct line of exposure to what you want to disinfect, if the surface is hard or soft, and if it is dry or wet. Most importantly, the engineer said that when the light is used, it is extremely important not to have the light on if anyone is in the room. According to a seminar put on by the [Illuminating Engineering Society](#), there were no commercially available LED UV-C emitting products that have been vetted and tested by the IES. There have also been reports of import companies falsely advertising their products as UV-C when in reality, they are UV-A, or in some cases more dangerous UV-B lights. UV-A is typically a “blacklight” and isn’t known to be harmful (which doesn’t sanitize either), but UV-B can cause skin burns and eventually skin cancer. Science Daily republished a story from UCSB where researchers are developing ultraviolet LEDs that have the ability to decontaminate surfaces -- and potentially air and water -- that have come in contact with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. To read the article, click [here](#). At this point, there are no known LED UV-C light sources of significant power to be effective nor have been verified for their sanitizing effect by the FDA.

Can you explain what the L.A. County Board of Supervisors did last week regarding the Eviction Moratorium

On Tuesday, May 12, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors extended the current eviction moratorium through June 30, 2020, and it may be extended by the Board of Supervisors on a month-to-month basis. The moratorium was also updated to clarify that commercial protections are intended for small businesses. Multi-national companies and publicly traded businesses are exempt from the County’s emergency tenant protection policies. In March, the Board of Supervisors put in place an eviction moratorium that prevents both residential and commercial tenants in Los Angeles County from being evicted for not paying their rent, for no-fault reasons and other violations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To see additional details and to learn what other cities in L.A. County have temporary eviction moratoriums, click [here](#).

WHAT WE'RE READING

Note: The Journal of Accountancy story is very insightful.

SBA releases PPP forgiveness form but AICPA urges more detail

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, released an application form Friday for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness along with instructions for completing the form. The [form and instructions](#) offer borrowers details on how to apply for forgiveness of their PPP loans, consistent with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, P.L. 116-136 and additional guidance such as FAQs and interim final rules. The AICPA responded to the loan forgiveness application with a news release Saturday saying that while the document and instructions help

address some administrative questions, they leave major issues unresolved. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

California's New Coronavirus Dine-In Guidelines Spell Big Shifts For Some Restaurants

Southern California restaurateurs are eager to reopen for dine-in customers and they mostly welcomed the guidelines Gov. Gavin Newsom [handed down on Tuesday, May 12](#). But some safety measures go against the grain of the typical dining experience because when Americans eat together we crave intimacy. On a date? You're feeding each other nibbles. Out with the kids? You're serving family-style off one platter. Happy hour with your buddies? You're sharing a pitcher of frozen margaritas and a pile of messy nachos. According to Newsom's 12-page document of new rules, restaurants must "Discontinue tableside food preparation and presentation such as food item selection carts and conveyor belts, guacamole preparation, etc." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Los Angeles Offers Virus Tests To All, Still Has Unused Kits

With ample coronavirus tests and not enough sick people seeking them, the mayor of Los Angeles recently did something on a scale no other major U.S. city had done — allow anyone with or without symptoms to be tested as often as they want. A website to book a test was quickly swamped by residents in the nation's second-largest City and the surrounding County who couldn't get tested under more stringent guidelines and were concerned they were infected or could be asymptomatic carriers unwittingly exposing others. To read the full story, click [here](#).

"Immune to Evidence": How Dangerous Coronavirus Conspiracies Spread

Conspiratorial videos and websites about COVID-19 are going viral. Here's how one of the authors of "The Conspiracy Theory Handbook" says you can fight back. One big takeaway: Focus your efforts on people who can hear evidence and think rationally. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California Governor: Shrink Prisons to Help Cut Budget

Gov. Gavin Newsom is proposing to significantly shrink the footprint of [California's](#) prison system, partly because of massive budget cuts prompted by the pandemic but also because of philosophy. The revised budget he sent to state lawmakers this week envisions closing two state prisons in the coming years; cutting nearly one in five of the 43 inmate firefighter camps; and eventually closing all three state-run juvenile prisons. He's also seeking unspecified increases to sentencing credits that allow inmates to leave prison more quickly. And he proposes to shorten parole to a maximum of two years, down from five years for felonies, and let ex-felons earn their way off supervision in just a year, or 18 months for sex offenders. To read the full story, click [here](#).

California minimum wage would continue to go up under Gavin Newsom's proposed budget

California's minimum wage increases will continue as planned, having escaped the chopping block in Gov. Gavin Newsom's revised 2020-21 budget. California's minimum wage is currently

\$12 an hour for businesses with fewer than 26 employees, and \$13 an hour for businesses with 26 or more. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Newsom Ties Budget Cuts To Federal Aid

How does a liberal, blue-state Governor take on the unappealing task of slashing the budget? By shifting a lot of the pressure to the federal government. In revising California's budget down to \$203 billion today, Gov. Gavin Newsom charted a plan to fill a huge deficit by tying many cuts to additional federal aid. If the feds come through with \$1 trillion for state and local governments that Newsom and other Democratic [governors have requested](#), California would not reduce funding to schools, colleges, parks, child care, health care and other programs. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Two Coasts. One Virus. How New York Suffered Nearly 10 Times the Number of Deaths as California

California's Governor and San Francisco's mayor worked together to act early in confronting the COVID threat. For Andrew Cuomo and Bill de Blasio, it was a different story, and 27,000 New Yorkers have died so far. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Firms That Left U.S. To Cut Taxes Could Qualify For Federal Coronavirus Aid

American companies that moved their official headquarters offshore to avoid U.S. taxes could qualify for [coronavirus](#) aid from the Federal Reserve, tax lawyers say, raising new questions about which firms should get access to public money. Under guidelines published by the Fed, companies that engaged in so-called corporate inversion transactions while maintaining meaningful U.S. operations appear to be eligible for two new programs designed to provide credit to large employers by purchasing new or outstanding corporate bonds. To read the full story, click [here](#).

We're Paying for Coronavirus Stimulus by Printing Money

Republicans and Democrats have many disagreements about fiscal policy. But almost all lawmakers on Capitol Hill agree that there are exactly three ways that the U.S. government can finance new public spending: By raising taxes, cutting existing outlays, or increasing the national debt. But this is a fiction. In truth, the federal government can fund large-scale public investments without burdening taxpayers, trimming other budget items, or adding to deficits. And not only *can* Uncle Sam work such sorcery in theory, he has already done so in practice. To read the full story, click [here](#).

How The Pandemic Has Disrupted Food Chains

The COVID-19 health emergency has changed what we eat and where we eat it. We talked with [Dave Puglia](#), president and CEO of Western Growers (which represents family farms growing fresh produce) and a member of the [PPIC Water Policy Center advisory council](#), about how these changes are affecting California's agricultural sector. To read the full story, click [here](#).

May Revise Proposes Major Revenue Raisers

On May 14, Governor Newsom submitted his May Budget Revision (i.e., the “May Revise” to his January 10 budget proposal). As part of the May Revise, the Governor offered a series of “revenue solutions,” which amount to billions of dollars of increased tax payments primarily made by business taxpayers. The May Revise explains, “As part of the balanced approach to managing the budget deficit, the May Revision includes two significant temporary changes to tax law, two measures to reduce the sales tax gap, and maintains three tax measures included in the Governor’s Budget.” It further provides that “These tax measures as a whole are intended to raise revenue, stimulate economic growth, and help those in need.” To read the full story, click [here](#).

Salesforce’s Coronavirus Office Reopening Plan: Separated, Masked Workers And More Cleaning

There will be temperature scans on every floor, mandatory masks, and 6-foot separations for all workers. Hand sanitizer will be everywhere, and cleaners will work throughout the day. Work areas and conferences rooms may operate with less than half the normal occupancy. Elevators are a “choke point” and will be limited to only a few people at a time, and teams will come in at staggered times, Pinkham said. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Pelosi Pushes Veritas Investments To Return \$3.6M PPP Loan; They’ll Now Repay Amount

[Veritas Investments](#), S.F.’s largest corporate landlord, was recently granted a \$3.6M Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan by the U.S. government’s Small Business Administration (SBA) — funds they plan on repaying, which will help bolster some of the City’s most vulnerable small businesses. Suffice to say that the roll-out of PPP loans across the County has been [anything but seamless](#). Restaurant chains like Shake Shack, Potbelly, and the Fiesta Restaurant Group (the corporation behind Pollo Tropical and Taco Cabana) have received tens of millions of dollars in relief aid meant to buoy genuine small businesses through these choppy times. Now we can add one of the Bay Area’s largest corporate property management firms to that list — but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi isn’t having it. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Defying State Orders, Some Riverside County Businesses And Restaurants Reopen

A Norco pancake house joined a handful of other local businesses in reopening Sunday in defiance of state orders meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Patrons queued outside The Original Pancake House Norco early Sunday morning, even before it opened its doors, eager for a breakfast at a restaurant. The restaurant’s staff wore face masks as they maneuvered between the tables at the busy restaurant, some of which were kept empty to allow for social distancing. To read the full story, click [here](#).

Parking a \$375 million airplane takes more than just locking the door

Craig Barton may have the most difficult parking valet job in history. As airlines around the world have grounded substantial numbers of their planes after the coronavirus pandemic decimated travel, the head of technical operations for American Airlines has spent the past two months trying to figure out where to park hundreds of planes. We’re talking aircraft like the \$375 million [Boeing 777-300](#), a wide-body that’s 242 feet long, with a wingspan of 200 feet. “It’s not the same as just putting your car in your garage and walking away for a month,” Barton

said. "There's not one place in the world where we could stick a few hundred airplanes." To read the full story, click [here](#).

Trump's emergency powers worry some senators, legal experts

WASHINGTON (A.P.) — The day he declared the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) a national emergency, President Donald Trump made a cryptic offhand remark. "I have the right to do a lot of things that people don't even know about," he said at the White House. Trump wasn't just crowing. Dozens of statutory authorities become available to any president when national emergencies are declared. They are rarely used, but Trump last month stunned legal experts and others when he claimed — mistakenly — that he has "total" authority over governors in easing COVID-19 guidelines. To read the full story, click [here](#).