



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** April 21, 2020

**TO:** Jim Throop, City Manager

**FROM:** Christie Alarcon, Community Development Director  
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**SUBJECT:** Discussion of Potential Cancellation, Postponement, or Other Modification of the 2020 Fourth of July Fireworks Show, Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends City Council review the staff report; and provide direction if the City Council deems necessary.

### **Background:**

The City has held an annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Show at Lompoc High School Huyck Stadium for over 30 years. The show has had the following attendance over the last three years:

Year	Approx # of attendees plus comp tickets
2019	2,500
2018	2,700
2017	2,300

In 2019, the Lompoc High School District began renovation of Huyck Stadium to install a new synthetic turf and track at the high school. Due to the renovations, the City will not be able to hold the firework show at the stadium any longer as such a show could damage the synthetic turf.

In January 2020, the Lompoc City Council directed staff to evaluate other potential venues for the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> of July Firework Show.

On March 3, 2020, after review of the following locations' pros and cons, the City Council directed staff to move forward with a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Firework Show to be held at Ryon Park:

- John-Mansville Park
- Agricultural Fields (west of City)
- Lompoc Airport
- Riverbend Park
- River Park
- Ryon Park

**Discussion:**

Due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic and the Governor's Executive Order No. N-33-20 requiring residents to heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including but not limited to staying at home except to conduct essential services and activities, and advising residents to practice social distancing when away from home<sup>1</sup>, staff is returning to the City Council with the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> of July Firework Show for discussion of the following:

1. Cancellation of the 2020 Fourth of July Firework Show: Due to the uncertainty of such orders being lifted, staff has reached out to the pyrotechnic group that puts on the fireworks show to discuss their cancellation policy. The deadline for canceling the show is May 5, 2020, without any financial impact. Beyond that date, cancellation of the show would result in loss of the City's \$5,000 deposit or possibly rolling the \$5,000 to the 2021 show.
2. Postponement: Another option includes postponing the show to Labor Day, September 7, 2020, in hopes that it would be post COVID-19 "stay-at-home" and social distancing orders. The County Public Health Department current order is through May 4<sup>th</sup> assuming they determine no need for extension.
3. Different Venue / Different Type of Show: Another option staff is evaluating is moving the venue to agricultural fields (west of the City) and changing to high level mortars that would have a larger blast radius and be visible to those residents staying at home.

**Fiscal Impact:**

In order to utilize Ryon Park as the venue for the 2020 Fourth of July Fireworks Show, the City Council was advised of the potential need for allocation of General Fund monies, estimated at \$6,770.

The fiscal impact of cancellation or postponement of the firework show would be zero dollars if made prior to May 5, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition, on April 5, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department issued an order banning "live performance venues" until May 4, 2020, which could be extended to a later date. Violation of the order is a criminal misdemeanor or can subject the violator to civil penalties.

The fiscal impact of choosing item three in the discussion above (high level mortars visible from homes) would be as follows:

Estimated Costs	
Fireworks	\$25,000
Fencing	2,000
Staffing / Fire Control	3,500
Total Cost	\$30,500

Estimated Revenue	
Percent of 2019 Booth Sales	\$15,600
GAP – Loss of ticket sales	14,900
Total Revenue	\$30,500
Possible Means of Closing Gap	
Seek Additional Sponsorships	\$8,400*
Donation – Chumash	\$5,000*
Donations – Private	\$1,500*

**Conclusion:**

Due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, and the uncertain duration of current social distancing orders, staff seeks City Council direction regarding whether to move forward with a fireworks show or to allow for other suggestions the City Council may have due to the limited time constraints for making a decision to cancel the show.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christie Alarcon, Community Development Director

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Jim Throop, City Manager