Safe Construction of Residential, Commercial and Public Works Projects to Resume Under New Public Health Order

Supervisor Dave Cortese led efforts to re-open safe construction along with labor leaders

Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese announced today that the new Public Health Order extending shelter in place through May 31 includes revisions he spearheaded, including easing the restriction on construction projects, subject to certain safety protocols.
Earlier this month, Supervisor Cortese convened an ad-hoc committee of leaders from the six Bay Area counties and the City of Berkeley that have Shelter in Place orders to consider re-opening construction work that can be done with as much safety as public works projects, which were already exempt from the Order. Detailed plans for Shelter in Place revisions also came from building industry officials (CBIA), contractors, tech companies and commercial property owners.

"Before coronavirus entered our community, we were, and still are, facing a housing crisis," said Supervisor Cortese. "We cannot pull back from our commitment to build housing when workers can do it safely, maintain physical distance and wear face coverings. The process I led is one that can be duplicated in any part of the country and was guided by science."

Santa Clara County will allow development projects to resume construction if contractors and workers follow strict public health guidelines to ensure work site safety and enact strong mitigation measures to prevent community spread of COVID-19.

Santa Clara County’s Public Health officials were provided with detailed plans from construction unions and contractors to safely resume construction during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Director of the South Bay Labor Council, Ben Field, joined the announcement earlier today, along with UA 393 Residential Plumber Cecelia Cervantes and IBEW Business Agent Will Smith.

The new order that must be adhered to by contractors and workers emphasizes social distancing, sanitation of restrooms and any common areas, health screenings at work sites, signage that reinforces COVID-19 prevention measures, and other best practices.

Click here to read the entire new order.

For questions or for any comment call the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030.