



Date: March 12, 2020

From: Dean Wetter, General Manager

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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

## **SUBJECT: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District continues to be in regular communication with Riverside University Health Systems Public Health (RUHS-PH), as well as federal and state agencies, related to the rapidly changing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation that our state and nation is facing.

Following the orders of state and county health officials, Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District is postponing all public gatherings of 250 people, or more, at all our facilities as a means of slowing the spread of COVID-19. Also postponed will be smaller events, sports, classes and meetings (per California Department of Public Health). All current and upcoming sport leagues, instructional classes and meetings are postponed until further notice.

The first event to be affected is the Ramona-Country Carvers annual show that was scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 14-15, at the Sport Center in San Jacinto.

Valley-Wide's top priority continues to be the health and safety of all our participants, visitors and staff, and we take this responsibility very seriously. We understand the decision may cause hardships for some guests and families, but we must follow the orders of health officials.

"These restrictions may seem harsh, given the relatively low number of coronavirus cases in Riverside County, but they are necessary if we are going to stop the spread of COVID-19. I do not take these restrictions lightly and clearly; they will impact many in organizations and individuals in the community. We're in this together and I believe they're necessary to slow and eventually stop the spread of COVID-19." - Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser

In Riverside County, officials have reported eight coronavirus cases, including five in the Coachella Valley. The source of three of these cases has not been determined, so it is considered a community spread. Community spread involves transmission of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown. It indicates that the virus was not contracted through relevant travel history or contact to a known case of COVID-19 and suggests that the virus is present in the community.

Valley-Wide is an independent special district with more than 80 parks and recreation centers in the cities of Hemet, Menifee and San Jacinto and unincorporated communities of Aguanga, French Valley, Valle Vista and Winchester. And again, Valley-Wide's top priority continues to be the health and safety of our participants, guests and staff, and we take this responsibility seriously.

Further information: Craig Shultz, Public Information Officer 951-654-1505 craig@gorecreation.org