MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Effective Date: April 1, 2020

COVID-19 Construction Field Safety Guidance

It is important to note that implementation of this guidance is within each contractor’s means and methods and not a direction from County of Marin related to any specific project.

This field guidance has been developed in response to the need for work on certain construction projects to continue as safely as possible while various COVID-19 self-isolation orders are in place within the state of California. The State of California and County of Marin Health Orders that address the COVID-19 pandemic provide for certain work on public works projects to continue if it is Essential Infrastructure or an Essential Governmental Function as defined under the Marin County Health Order dated March 31, 2020 (Health Order).

This guidance is not all encompassing and may need to be tailored for individual construction sites, particularly smaller sites using their own workforce. But they provide best practices to provide safe work sites in light of the challenges posed by COVID-19. This guidance may be updated as more information becomes available regarding COVID-19 and potential exposure pathways.

Contractors should prepare a new or updated Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan to address COVID-19-related issues and are strongly urged to adopt and implement measures that address such issues as but not limited to the following: assembly points; daily screening protocols; site protocols to mitigate potential spread; designation of a Site Safety Representative (SSR); providing sufficient levels of PPE to workers; social distancing - especially in tight or limited work areas; cleaning and decontamination protocols; adequate hand washing stations; and COVID-19 awareness training as part of weekly tailgate meetings.

Also, contractors should review the latest OSHA COVID-19 Workplace Safety Guidance document¹ as a resource in preparation of their Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan. A copy of the Contractor’s Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan shall be kept at the jobsite and made available at all times.

The authority of the Engineer and the duly authorized Inspectors described in the General Conditions includes the authority to suspend the work if contractor personnel are not complying with the Health Order and/or OSHA guidance.

¹ see https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf