



Summary of Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development Operations During the Shelter in Place

Due to the shelter in place order issued by the County Health Officer (Order) on March 16, 2020, all offices of the Department of Conservation and Development are closed to the public until further notice.

We continue to work remotely, on-line and with limited in-office and field personnel to operate County programs and provide public services to the best of our ability within the constraints of the Order and while deploying staff to support the County's emergency operations. The following is the current status of services being offered by the Department. This is subject to change. The Department will update this information as conditions change.

Building Permits and Construction:

Construction work is currently allowed to proceed to completion for most residential projects with active building and grading permits. Non-essential residential and commercial projects currently under construction will need to be suspended in an orderly manner that maintains public health and safety. We are continuing to perform inspections of work covered by active building permits as requested by permit holders and will provide guidance to contractors who need to suspend their projects for the duration of the order.

We are accepting applications for new building permits for many types of construction projects, but we are only issuing new building permits for projects that meet the definition of essential infrastructure and businesses as described in the Order. Projects qualifying to receive new building permits include construction of new housing units (such as single-family homes, multi-family housing and accessory dwelling units) and residential repairs that are necessary for health safety (such as plumbing, electrical and roof repairs).

We will begin processing building permits applications for most non-essential projects, and continue processing applications submitted previously, but will not issue building permits for such projects until the Order is lifted. Also, as our Application and Permit Center is closed, we will not be able to accept applications or issue permits for non-essential projects that are typically reviewed and issued over the counter, including but not limited to installation of rooftop solar panels.

Please call 925-674-7200 with questions or to discuss procedures for submitting building permit applications for qualifying projects. The County Health Department responds to some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about construction on their [FAQ page](#) (see the "Construction" category on that page).

Land Use Planning:

We are accepting new applications for most types of land use planning applications and permits, such as land use permits, home occupation permits, variances, and subdivision applications. Applications processed administratively can be approved during the duration of the Order. However, if an application requires a public hearing, approval of the application will be delayed due to the shelter in place directive in the Order. The Department will attempt to make as much progress as possible on all land use applications within the constraints of the Order.

Please call 925-674-7200 with questions or to discuss procedures for submitting applications.

Long range and policy planning activities and programs are continuing to be implemented by staff working remotely, though with some disruption due to the Order. Work is proceeding on the County's Envision Contra Costa 2040 General Plan update project, although some public outreach activities have been suspended.

Community Programs:

Housing and Community Assistance programs like CDBG and HOME projects, mortgage credits, and housing finance are continuing on a remote basis. Please use the contact information on this website for specific inquiries, although there may be delays in our response time and processing time.

The County's Home Weatherization program is only providing services to homes with urgent residential health safety needs at this time (please click [here](#) for additional details).

The Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) has ceased all home rehabilitation activity during the effective period of the Stay At Home Health Order, but still continues to accept new applicants. Interested applicants can apply for NPP through Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley, [here](#).

Thank you for your patience.

What construction is allowed under the [County Health Officer Order](#) during COVID-19?

On March 16, 2020, the County Health Officer issued an Order that limits construction to essential infrastructure and essential business activity as defined in the order. The Order prohibits new construction projects unless they are adding to the supply of our county's housing stock (i.e. building a second unit, building a new home, etc.) or maintaining the habitability of homes in order to avoid displacement of residents. Business construction projects related to maintaining or upgrading essential business, government or healthcare infrastructure are also allowed to go forward. Other construction activities not meeting these criteria need to be suspended or put on hold until the Order is lifted. The table below provides some examples of how different types of projects will be processed while the Order is in effect.

For what type of construction	Can I apply for a permit?	Can I obtain a permit?	Can I get inspections?
Already started, permitted construction of a residential remodel or addition, but project is not yet complete	N/A	N/A	Yes
Already started, permitted construction of, repairs of, or additions to residential pools, shed, trellises and other ancillary structures	N/A	N/A	Request inspection & suspend construction
New single family, multi family, and Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) housing	Yes	Yes	Yes
New residential remodels and additions that require a plan check. Please call (925) 674-7200 for an appointment	Yes	Not until the Order is lifted	N/A
New construction of, repairs of, or additions to residential pools, sheds, trellises and other ancillary structures typically permitted over the counter	No, please wait until the Order is lifted	N/A	N/A
New Residential rooftop PV or ground mount PV. (However, rooftop PV systems less than 10kW and installed at a maximum height of 10" above surface may be submitted via E-Permits but NOT issued)	No, please wait until the Order is lifted	N/A	N/A
Already started, permitted construction or improvement or repair of an "Essential Business"	N/A	N/A	Yes
Already started, permitted construction or improvement or repair of an existing building not meeting the definition of "Essential Business"	N/A	N/A	Request inspection & suspend construction
New commercial building meeting the definition of "Essential Business" per Order of the Health Officer	Yes	Yes	Yes
New commercial building, or alterations, repairs, or improvements to an existing building not meeting the definition of "Essential Business"	Yes	Not until the Order is lifted	N/A
Improvement or repair to an "Essential Business"	Yes	Yes	Yes