

Overview

The City of San Diego understands the need for studios, production companies, agencies, and crew members to return to work with the goal of mitigating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 for cast, crew, support services, and the public.

The City of San Diego's current policy on film and still photography production is in line with the County of San Diego's Public Health Orders, California Department of Public Health guidelines, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. It is the responsibility of the production company, its crew members, contractors, vendors, and other representatives to be aware of and comply with guidelines as they are issued.

This policy direction is current as of May 6, 2021, but may change subject to our continuing adoption of public health guidance to ensure measures to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID-19 are followed. Deviations from proposed plans, perceived risk to public health, and to our public safety resources will result in suspension of the film/still photography production.

Guidelines

The City of San Diego will begin processing permits for film and still photography productions on City of San Diego public rights-of-way on a case-by-case basis provided the productions comply with the following guidelines:

- All productions must complete the County of San Diego's [Safe Reopening Plan](#), prominently post the completed plan on-set, and distribute copies to all cast, crew, and individuals that will be on-set.
- The order prohibiting social gatherings does not apply to workers supporting the entertainment industries, studios, and other related establishments as they have been identified as an essential service, but there must be more than enough space for a minimum 6' physical distancing for all talent and crewmembers within the film or photography shoot footprint. Therefore, the City is requiring a cap of cast/crew within a defined area: a **maximum group of 50 on location** will be considered based on footprint size. The cap may be smaller or larger pending review of the submitted request.
- All cast, crew, extras, and audience members must wear a face covering while on location. An exception will be made for on-camera talent only while actively being filmed or photographed, provided all other individuals are a minimum 6' physical distance from talent.
- Productions must make accommodations for hand washing and/or sanitation stations on set available for all cast/crew.
- All cast, crew, extras, and audience members must maintain a minimum 6' physical distance from each other at all times.
- All productions on public and private property must comply with County of San Diego's Public Health Orders, California Department of Public Health guidelines, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. Are film/still photography permits being processed at this time?**

Yes, provided productions comply with the guidelines detailed on the previous page and with county, state, and federal guidance. Please plan for longer processing times for permit requests (up to five business days for low-impact filming/still photography that does not involve City/public safety staffing).
- 2. Do these guidelines also apply for film or still photography production on private property?**

Yes, however, the City of San Diego does not process film permit requests for private property unless filming activity involves public safety hazards or ancillary use of public property. Productions taking place on private property must still comply with county, state, and federal guidelines.
- 3. Can I request posting for no-parking to support my shoot?**

Posting for no-parking requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Productions will be asked to request the bare minimum quantity of parking spaces for essential production vehicles needed to support the film/still photography shoot (not to exceed six (6) parking spaces) to mitigate negative impacts to businesses that are re-opening and/or offering curbside pick-up. A detailed scale parking/traffic diagram, identifying the requested parking spaces, street names (including nearest cross streets), and surrounding businesses/properties will be required, in addition to completion of the required Good Neighbor Outreach process.
- 4. Can I request a street or sidewalk closure as part of my filming activity?**

Street, sidewalk, and right-of-way closure requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- 5. Can I request a film permit for a City of San Diego park, beach, pier, library, or lake?**

Film and still photography requests for City of San Diego parks, beaches, piers, libraries, and lakes that are closed to the public or open only for limited activity will not be processed at this time. For specific locations that are open for permitting activities, on-site City or public safety staffing may be required and hourly staffing fees may apply. To inquire about a specific location, send an email to film@sandiego.gov.
- 6. I'm interested in participating in an all-hands production/roundtable meeting to discuss my production. How can I schedule this?**

Accommodations will be made to host preliminary discussions and/or production meetings via video/web conference. To request a video/web meeting, please send an email request to film@sandiego.gov.
- 7. Is there any expected date for full re-opening of film permitting without restrictions or additional guidelines?**

The City of San Diego does not yet have a timeline for expanded permitting services at this time. Please check back frequently at <https://www.sandiego.gov/specialevents-filming> for updates.