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City of San Diego Reopens Film Office Under New State Guidance Related to COVID-19

PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR FILM AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY PRODUCTION WILL BE REVIEWED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS

SAN DIEGO – In a positive step toward safely reopening the economy and bringing back jobs, the City of San Diego will start processing permits for filming and photography in the public right-of-way under updated public health guidelines aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Permit applications are being accepted now and will be effective starting Friday, June 12. All productions must complete the County of San Diego's Safe Reopening Plan which requires facial coverings, physical distancing measures and sanitation stations for all cast and crew. Film permits will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Established in 2016, the <u>San Diego Film Office</u> offers a comprehensive suite of services including a filming production guide, location gallery and interactive map. California's film industry represents more than 890,000 film and entertainment employees.

"San Diego's Film Office was established to support and grow the local film industry and to promote the San Diego region as a competitive film-friendly destination," said Natasha Collura, Executive Director of the Special Events and Filming Department. "That mission is true now, more than ever, as we understand the need for studios, production companies, crew, support services and creative agencies to return to work safely."

With beautiful scenery and ideal weather conditions, San Diego is a popular location for production companies and photographers. In fiscal year 2019, the City received 554 applications for film and still photography productions, representing more than 1,300 days of filming.

Guidelines for issuing film permits in San Diego will continue to be examined based on available resources and updated based on state and county guidance. To learn more about the status of City services during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit sandiego.gov/coronavirus.