

SAN DIEGO REQUESTS SAFE REOPENING GUIDELINES FOR CONVENTION CENTERS ***Mayor Faulconer and Councilmember Cate Send Letter to Governor Asking for Expeditious Approval***

San Diego, CA: Under normal circumstances, the San Diego Convention Center (SDCC) serves as an economic engine for the City, generating activity for businesses in the region as well as essential tax revenue for core City needs and services. In Fiscal Year 2019, SDCC hosted 143 events and 836,695 attendees, accounted for 822,528 hotel room nights, \$755.3 million in direct attendee spending, \$29 million in hotel and sales tax revenue to the City, and had an overall regional impact of \$1.3 billion. Due to the pandemic, events are not allowed at SDCC so its ability to generate revenue for the City is stalled.

The SDCC has lost more than 100 events between March and December of this year. In addition to lost events, the projected lost figures for the cancelled and rescheduled events in 2020 are:

- Event attendees: 628,440
- Hotel nights: 671,670
- Direct attendee spending: \$707.8 million
- Regional impact: \$1.2 billion

The consequences for not approving the Safe Reopening Guidelines for convention centers in a timely manner are severe. The longer the SDCC is prohibited from hosting events, the longer it will take for the venue to recover financially, making it harder to retain its critical workforce. In addition, the City relies on tax revenue generated from SDCC events and visitors. Delays in reopening convention centers negatively impacts the City's General Fund and San Diego's ability to provide core services to constituents.

"We are respectfully requesting that the Governor approves the Safe Reopening Guidelines for convention centers statewide. These guidelines were submitted to his office in June. When conventions can reopen is just as critical as how they will be allowed to resume, and the state should be proactive in approving these guidelines well in advance. The world's fifth largest economy cannot turn on a dime and this guidance has been thoughtfully developed with an emphasis on public health and safety by leaders in the industry," stated Councilmember Chris Cate, Chair of the City of San Diego's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

View Mayor Faulconer and Councilmember Cate's letter here: <https://bit.ly/3c6ullQ>