

California Film Commission PRODUCTION ALERT

DATE: March 27, 2020

CALIFORNIA FILM COMMISSION (CFC) UPDATE & COVID-19 RESOURCES

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"The entertainment production industry has overcome challenges in the past, and it will endure this sudden shutdown."

-California Film Commission Executive Director Colleen Bell

[See Ms. Bell's full video message](#)

The CFC is open for business to help the industry deal with project delays and regulations, as well as help industry workers find valuable resources.

While working remotely from home, our staff is fully functioning - providing our regular services while adjusting to the latest industry and government developments. We are also in communication with our many CFC stakeholders.

For helpful information regarding virus prevention, information for employers and employees and all Californians, please visit [Covid19.ca.gov](https://www.covid19.ca.gov).

TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

[Force Majeure Provision to Address Timeline Requirements](#)

The impact of COVID-19 on tax credit productions is considered a

force majeure situation. Approved tax credit applicants impacted by the pandemic in a way that affects their ability to satisfy timeline requirements are eligible to submit a force majeure request.

According to the tax credit program statute, "Force Majeure" means an event or series of events, which are not under the control of the qualified tax payer. Examples include death, disability or breach by the motion picture director or principal cast member, an act of God, including, but not limited to, fire, flood, earthquake, storm, hurricane or other natural disaster, terrorist activities or government sanction.

Once a force majeure submission is deemed valid, the CFC will effectively stop the clock on the timeline requirements and resume them at such time as productions can recommence filming operations. When authorities declare resumption of non-essential activities, the CFC will issue a notice for tax credit productions to assess their timelines and contact the CFC within four (4) weeks. If approved productions fail to contact the CFC within that four-week period, the CFC will assume the production is not moving forward and will remove project from the queue. Qualified expenditures will continue to qualify during the force majeure period, assuming a credit allocation letter (CAL) has already been issued.

Program 3.0 Tax Credit Program Application Periods

Due to the Coronavirus situation, tax credit program allocation period dates for the next iteration of the tax credit program are currently pending.

FILM PERMITS FOR PRODUCTION ON STATE-OWNED PROPERTY

Most California jurisdictions have suspended issuing film permits. Others are evaluating permit requests on a case-by-case basis while adhering to Governor Newsom's guidelines prohibiting any gathering of more than 10 people.

In general, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has suspended all non-essential activity, including filming. Other State buildings and facilities are closed to filming as well. The California Department of Recreation and Parks is not allowing any gatherings at state parks, including filming, of more than 10 people, and their parking lots are closed. Caltrans will consider applications on a case-by-case basis that follow each district's guidelines as well as the Governor's size and social

distancing directives.

For information on a specific jurisdiction within the state, please check our list of regional film offices at:
<http://film.ca.gov/locations/regional-film-offices/> (includes relevant contact information).

For questions about the issuance or suspension of film permits on State-owned and operated properties, contact Permit Team Manager Eric Klosterman at eklosterman@film.ca.gov (323-817-4105).

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY RESOURCES

Motion Picture Television Fund

Financial assistance, support services & community resources
<https://mptf.com/help/>
323-634-3888

The Actors Fund

Entertainment Assistance Program
<https://actorsfund.org/services-and-programs/entertainment-assistance-program>
888-825-0911

SAG-AFTRA Foundation COVID-19 Disaster Fund

<https://sagaftra.foundation/assistance/disasterrelief/>

List of Unions & Guilds,

several of which are developing plans to help their members
<https://www.csatf.org/about/union-guild-directory/>

The Directors Guild Foundation

Providing interest-free loans to members in need
<https://www.dga.org/Resources/Directors-Guild-Foundation.aspx>

The IATSE National Benefit Fund

Allowing annuity hardship withdrawals
<https://www.iatsenbf.org/>

Writers Guild of America

Resources for WGA members
<https://www.wga.org/members/employment-resources/covid-19-resources>

American Federation of Musicians Local 47 (Los Angeles)

Emergency Relief Fund

Can apply for small grants

<https://afm47.org/relief-fund/>

Music Fund of Los Angeles Emergency Relief Fund

<http://www.musicfundla.org/coronavirus/>

Association of Independent Commercial Producers (AICP)

Coronavirus resources

<https://www.aicp.com/news-roundup/coronavirus-resources/>

The Animation Guild - IATSE Local 839

Covid-19 resource page

<https://animationguild.org/covid-19-resource-page/>

For support staffers, #PayUpHollywood, Scriptnotes Podcast, Junior Hollywood Radio & Television Society (JHRTS) and YEA!

have teamed to create the Hollywood Support Staff COVID-19 Relief Fund

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GQKXL5K>

About the California Film Commission

The California Film Commission (CFC) enhances California's status as the leader in motion picture, television and commercial production.

A one-stop office for filmmakers, the Commission supports productions of all sizes and budgets. In addition to managing the Film & Television Tax Credit program, services include an extensive digital location library, free online permitting, low cost use of state properties as shooting locations, and production assistance.

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