



Item 8: Resolution to Extend Street Closure Authority and Discuss Parklet Program

April 19, 2021

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Purpose

1. Uplift Local Streets Program

- Shall the authority to close certain streets be extended beyond May 31, 2021?
 - If so, until when shall the extension last?
 - Staff recommendation to September 7, 2021
 - Where?
 - University Avenue
 - California Avenue

2. Temporary Parklet Program

- Shall the temporary program be extended beyond September 7, 2021 or end?
- Shall a permanent parklet program be developed?



Overview

- 1. Current Re-opening Status**
- 2. Uplift Local Streets Program**
- 3. Temporary Parklet Program**

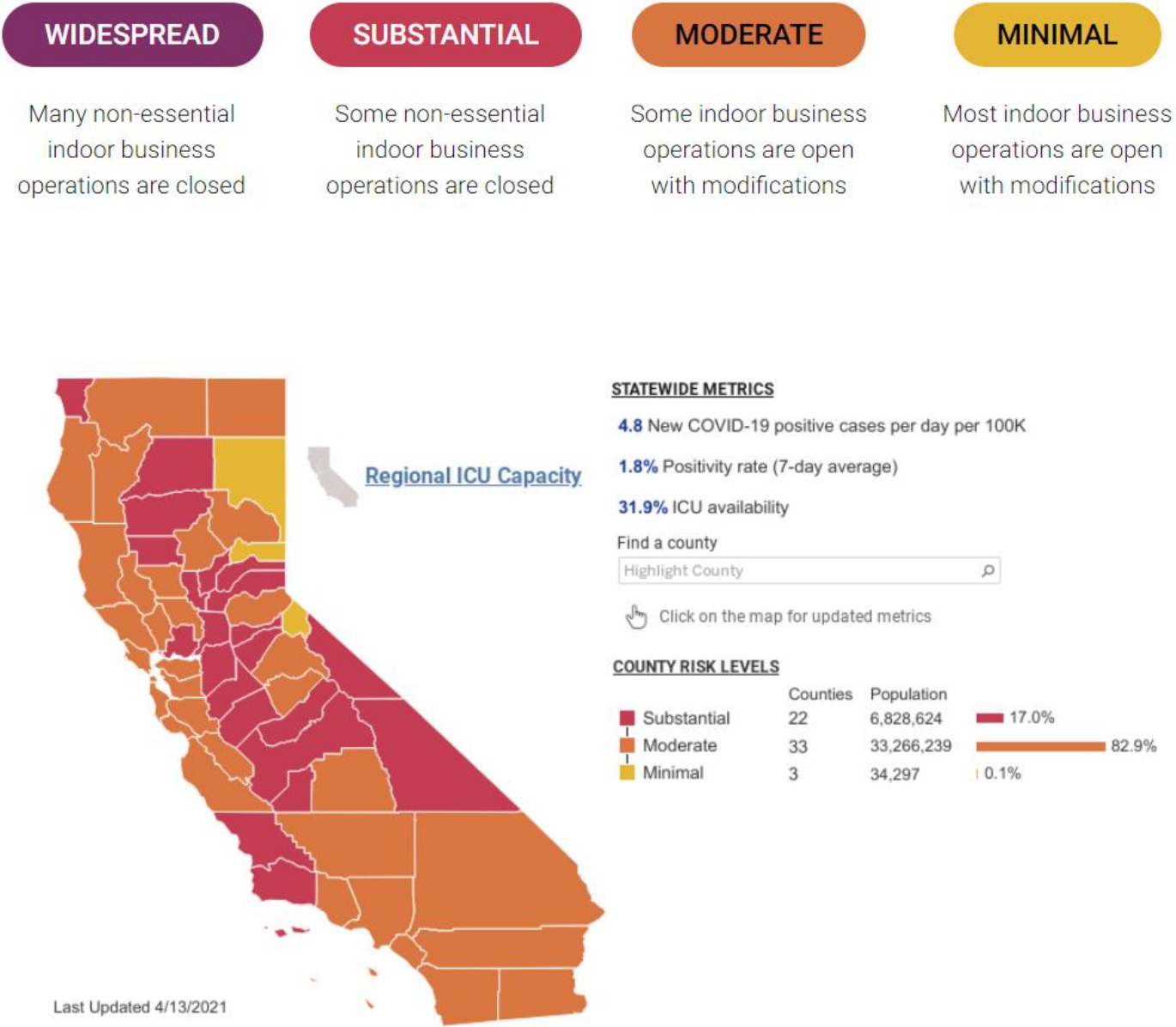


Current Re-Opening Status

COVID-19 Risk Levels

- Governor established color-coded risk levels
- Santa Clara County is in the **Moderate Risk level** (orange)
- This allows some indoor business operations
- **June 15 California may fully re-open** if (1) case rates (2) hospitalization rates remain low

California's county risk levels



How Tiers Impact Certain Industries

Table 1: Capacities for Certain Industries Under Blueprint for a Safer Economy

Tier	Indoor Dining	Indoor Retail	Gyms
Purple: Widespread	Outdoors only	Open indoors 25% max capacity	Outdoor only
Red: Substantial Spread	Open indoors 25% capacity	Open indoors 50% max capacity	Open indoors 10% max capacity
Orange: Moderate Spread	Open indoors 50% capacity	Open indoors	Open indoors 25% max capacity
Yellow: Minimal Spread	Open indoors 50% capacity	Open indoors	Open indoors 50% + saunas and steam rooms

Possible end of State tiered system on June 15, 2021

Local Response

- Resolution & temp. ordinance to create flexibility for community
 - Parklets, Outdoor Dining (public and private areas), Outdoor Retail, Activities in Parking Lots
- Parklets, Sidewalk, & Street Dining
 - 34 = Issued/pending at-grade and platform parklet permits
 - 63 = Encroachment permits, sidewalk
 - 31 = Encroachment permits

Note that 1 permit could have a parklet, street and, sidewalk, or a combination of the 3 types; we count each type separately on each permit

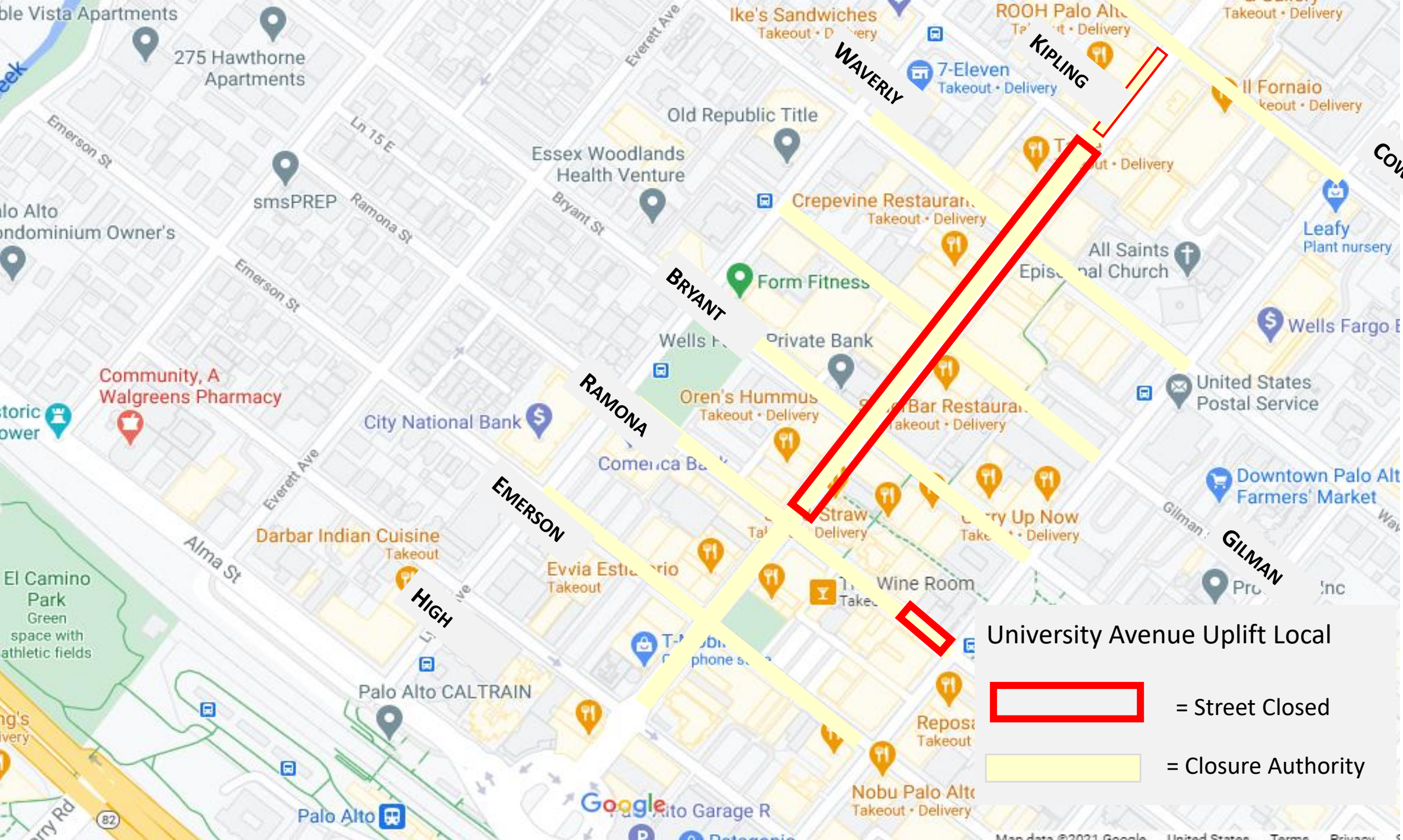




Uplift Local Streets Program

April 19, 2021

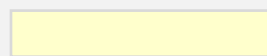
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University Avenue Uplift Local



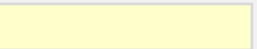
= Street Closed

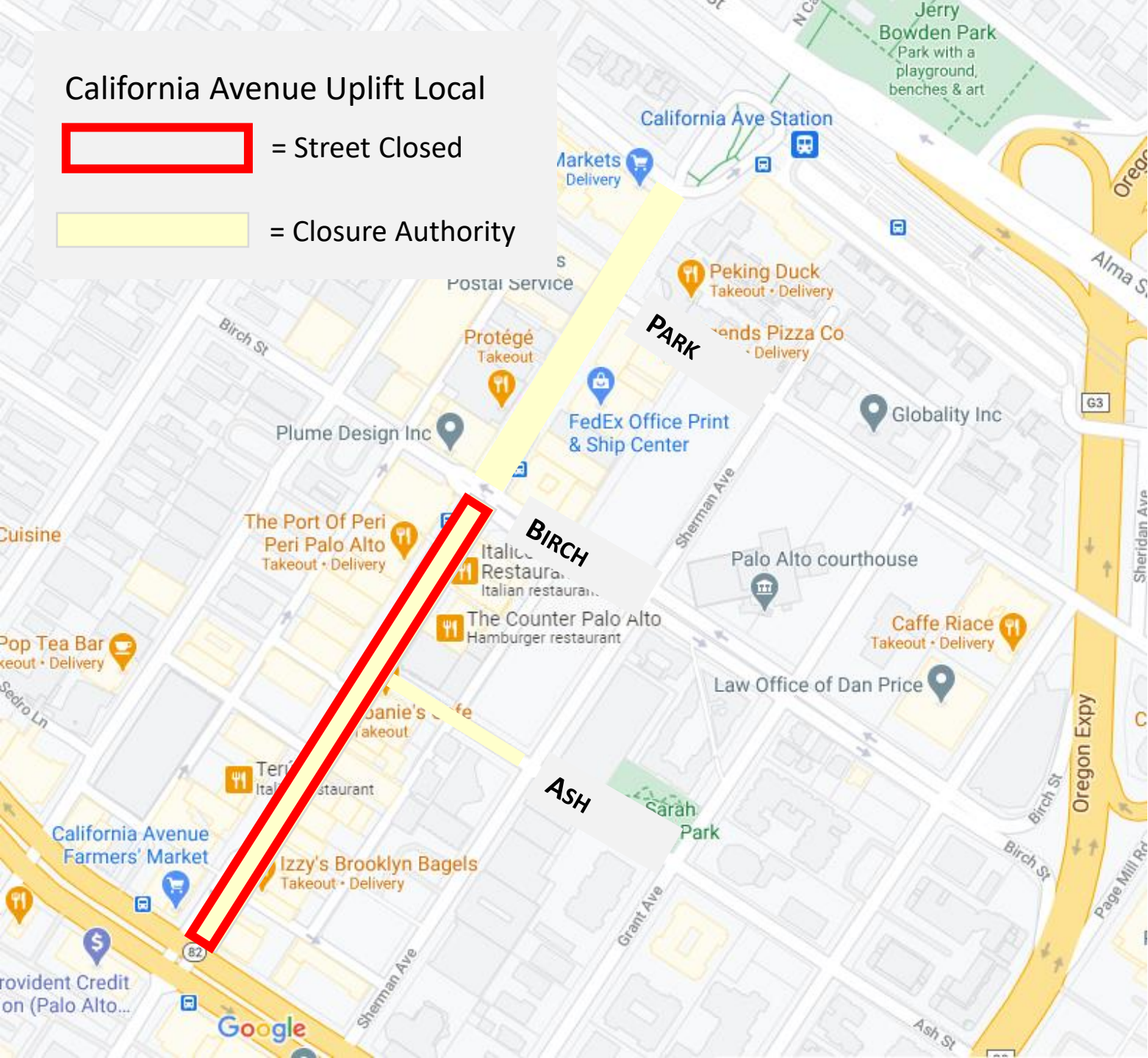


= Closure Authority

California Avenue Uplift Local

 = Street Closed

 = Closure Authority



Recommendation

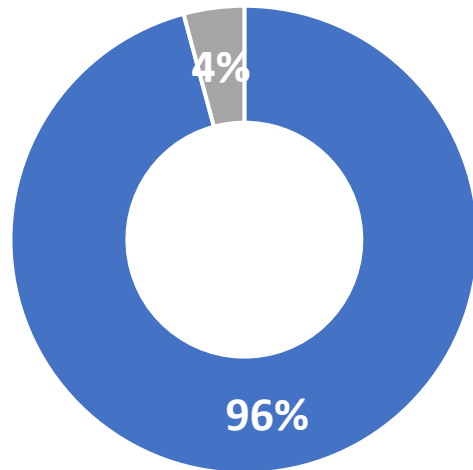
- Resolution ***authorizes*** City Manager to close streets to vehicular traffic (see maps).
- Authority ***expires*** on May 31, 2021.
- The resolution is based on the public health emergency.
- **Staff recommend extending program to *September 7, 2021* due to**
 - Provides flexibility during continued threat of coronavirus
 - County targets 85% of residents being vaccinated by Aug. 1, 2021
 - Local preferences for these programs



Survey Respondent Preferences – Uplift Local Streets

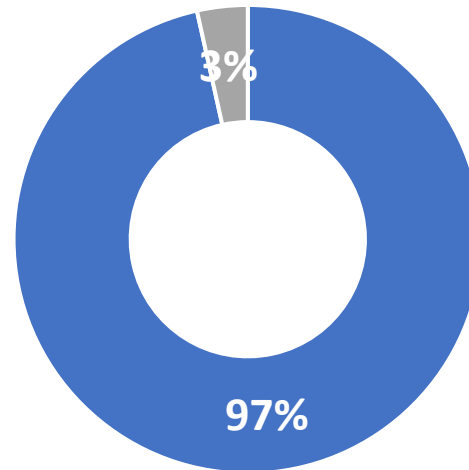
Cal Ave Uplift
Local Street:
Extend or Expire

■ Extend ■ Expire



Univ. Ave Uplift
Local Street:
Extend or Expire

■ Extend ■ Expire



Online Survey 1,147 Total Respondents

- 1,099 Extend Cal Ave
- 48 Expire Cal Ave
- 1,107 Extend U. Ave
- 40 Expire U. Ave

E-mail Correspondence

- 286 Support extension
- 2 Support expire

Approaches

- Allow closure to sunset on May 31, 2021
- Extend closure to date certain (September 7, 2021)
- Extend closure to sooner of date certain or end of emergency (local, county, or state)
- Extend closure on California Avenue while allowing University Avenue to sunset



Temporary Parklet Program

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Temporary Parklet Program

- Parklet construction has proliferated downtown
- Parklets not allowed on closed portion of California Avenue
- Parklet permits expire on September 7, 2021
- Parklets must be removed by that date



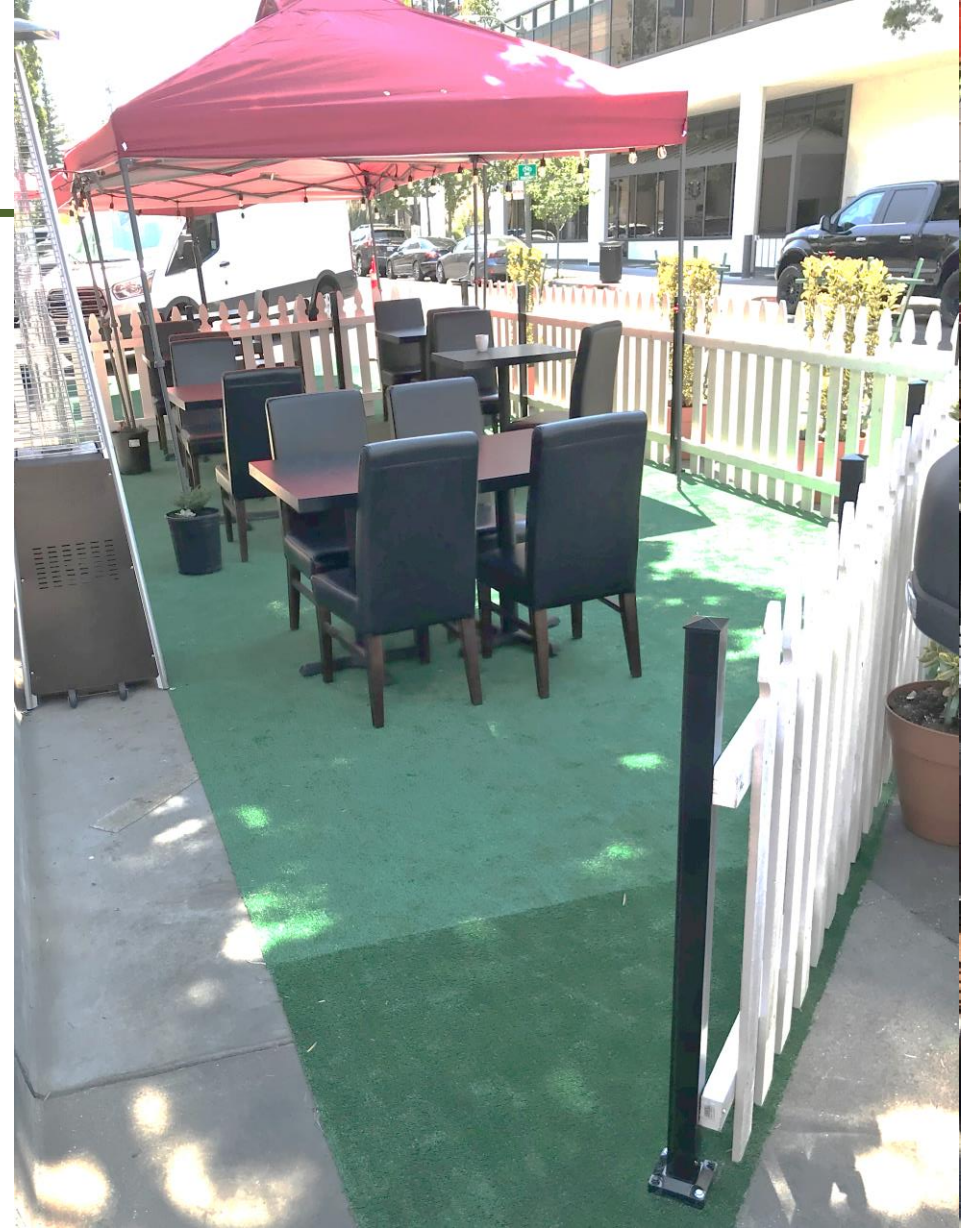
Challenges & Opportunities

- Parklets present opportunity to allow **expanded outdoor dining**, especially important for restaurants w/limited indoor capacity
- Parklets can **enhance the pedestrian environment**
- Current parklet designs may need **significant remodeling** to be more durable, prevent flooding
- Some patrons and business owners **prefer proximate car parking space** vs. dining space
- Can be a source of **conflict between neighbors**
- **A gap may occur** between development of a permanent program and the expiration of the temporary program



Approaches

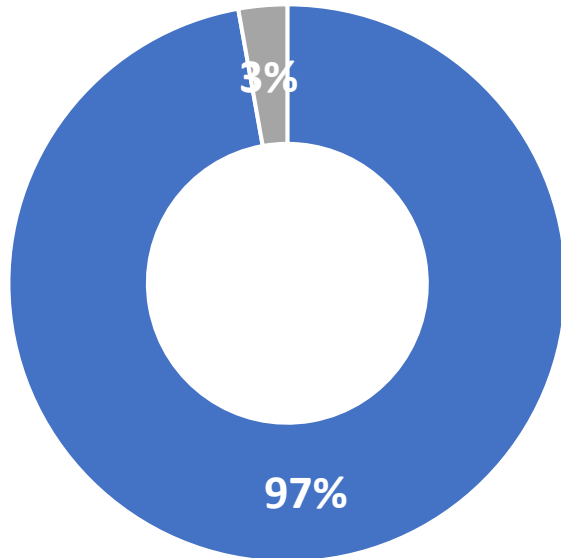
- Allow program to ***expire*** on September 7, 2021
- ***Extend temporary program***
 - Date added to resolution
 - Temp. program is based on state of emergency; Further Council action advised if program is extended beyond emergency.
- Direct staff to ***develop a permanent parklet program***
 - Review by advisory bodies and/or committees (PTC and/or Policy & Services)
 - Environmental Review
 - Ordinance adopted by City Council



Survey Respondent Preferences - Parklets

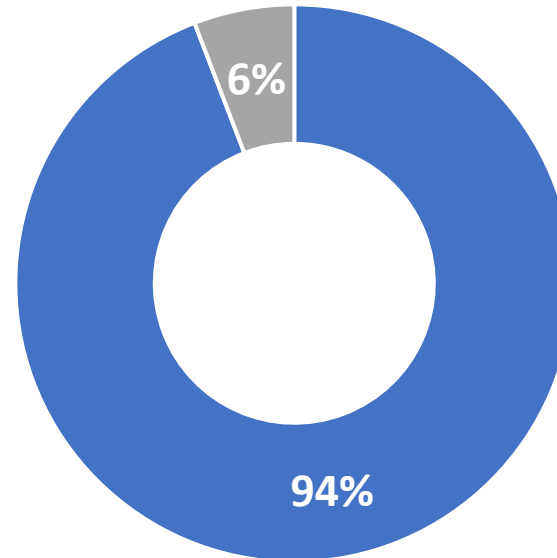
Temporary Parklet: Extend or Expire

■ Extend ■ Expire



Develop Permanent Parklet Program

■ Yes ■ No



Online Survey 1,147 Total Respondents

- 1,108 Extend
- 39 Expire
- 1,074 Yes Permanent
- 73 No Permanent

E-mail Correspondence

- 34 Support extending



Discussion

1. Uplift Local Streets Program

- Shall the authority to close certain streets be extended?
 - When?
 - To September 7, 2021 or other date?
 - Where?
 - University Avenue
 - California Avenue

2. Temporary Parklet Program

- Shall the temporary program be extended or expire?
- Shall a permanent parklet program be developed? *If yes, a further Council meeting will discuss more details.*



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