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# City of South Gate

Item No. 1

APR 20 2020

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF SOUTH GATE  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

## AGENDA BILL

9:10 am

For the Special Meeting of: April 21, 2020

Department Director:

  
Arturo Cervantes

Originating Department: Public Works

City Manager:

  
Michael Flad

**SUBJECT: SOUTH GATE'S 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**

**PURPOSE:** This item was continued from the Special City Council Meeting of April 15, 2020. The purpose of this item is to recognize Earth Day to support environmental protection through civic engagement, education and raising awareness of environmental issues.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** The Mayor will issue a Proclamation declaring April 22, 2020, as the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day "Virtual" Celebration in the City of South Gate, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Earth Day held on April 22, 1970.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

**ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL GOALS:** This event aligns with the City Council's Goal of prioritizing civic engagement. The Annual Earth Day Celebration is in the City Council's Work Program for Fiscal Year 2019/20.

**ANALYSIS:** The City holds the Earth Day event on an annual basis at the South Gate Park, but the recent policies implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of the physical event. The City will hold its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 22, 2020 by hosting a virtual website where residents can visit to learn more about community cleanup, graffiti removal, trash pick-up activities and other methods by which they can participate in Earth Day.

Earth Day provides an opportunity for the City's residents and businesses to get involved. Last year, over 20 booths provided services and information to over 250 participants. Waste Management, Central Basin Municipal Water District, Southern California Gas Company, Southern California Edison Company, Golden State Water Company, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and Target were amongst those who participated.

**BACKGROUND:** The City is one of many communities worldwide that celebrates Earth Day to acknowledge the importance of maintaining the Earth's natural resources. The first nationally celebrated Earth Day was proposed by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson for a national environmental teach-in on April 22, 1970. Twenty million people celebrated the first Earth Day. Below is a brief history of Earth Day:

**In the 1970's:** President Richard Nixon creates the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with a mission to protect the environment and public health; Congress, (a) amends the Clean Air Act to set national air quality, auto emission, and anti-pollution standards, and (b) passes the Clean Water Act,

limiting raw sewage and other pollutants flowing into rivers, lakes, and streams; President Gerald Ford signs the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce environmental and human health risks; and President Jimmy Carter signs the Clean Air Act Amendments to strengthen air quality standards and protect human health.

**In the 1980's:** Congress, (a) creates a superfund to clean-up hazardous waste sites, and polluters are made responsible for cleaning up the most hazardous sites, (b) declares the public has a right to know when toxic chemicals are released into air, land, and water, and (c) bans ocean dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste.

**In the 1990's:** President George Bush signs the Pollution Prevention Act, emphasizing the importance of preventing environmental damage; President Bill Clinton signs the Food Quality Protection Act to tighten standards for pesticides used to grow food, with special protections to ensure foods are safe for children to eat; and EPA issues tough new air quality standards for smog and soot, an action that would improve air quality for 125 million Americans.

**In the 2000's:** The EPA establishes regulations requiring more than 90 percent cleaner heavy duty highway diesel engines and fuel; President George W. Bush signs the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, helping to prevent forest fires and safeguard and preserve forests; and WaterSense is launched to raise awareness about the importance of water efficiency, ensure the performance of water-efficient products, and provide good consumer information.

**In 2010:** In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, a Climate Rally and Concert was held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

**In 2020:** In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Earth Day, the City will celebrate its Fifteenth Annual Earth Day event this year by hosting a virtual website where residents can learn more about Earth Day and environmental protection.

**ATTACHMENT:** Proclamation

AM:lc

# City of South Gate



From the Honorable  
**Mayor**

## PROCLAMATION

### *Declaring April 22, 2020 as the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Celebration and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Earth Day*

- WHEREAS,** *the first Earth Day was observed on April 22, 1970 to bring awareness to the environmental health of our planet with activities designed to educate citizens about Earth's environment and threats to the environment; and*
- WHEREAS,** *this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day which will be observed and celebrated; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the City will also observe and celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day on April 22, 2020 by hosting a virtual website where the community can learn more about Earth Day and Environmental Protection; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the City is inviting and encouraging all citizens, businesses, schools and organizations to participate in the Earth Day festivities as presented on the virtual website; and*
- WHEREAS,** *education and awareness of environmental sound practices will create a community that thinks and acts as a responsible trustee of our planet earth.*

**NOW, THEREFORE,** *be it proclaimed on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2020 that I, the Mayor of the City of South Gate, on behalf of the City Council and citizens, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2020, as the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Celebration in the City of South Gate and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Earth Day. Everyone is encouraged to participate in Earth Day activities in the comfort of your own home.*

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Mayor