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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Thursday, July 2, 2020

**CITY CANCELS FIREWORKS SHOW, URGES COMMUNITY TO STAY SAFE AT HOME**

*Amidst rising concerns regarding a second wave of COVID-19 and upon the Governor's recommendation, the City will not proceed with this year's Annual Fireworks Spectacular.*

**LAKE ELSINORE** – Today, the City of Lake Elsinore announced it will be canceling its Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Spectacular to best protect the overall health and safety of the community.

The City's decision came after consulting with Riverside County's Public Health Officer, Dr. Cameron Kaiser, who supported the cancellation. This week, COVID-19 cases hit new highs in Riverside County and State and County officials expressed serious concerns about hospitalizations and the lack of ICU bed capacity. Yesterday, Governor Newsom strongly encouraged agencies to consider the cancellation of fireworks shows to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, this week both Governor Newsom and Dr. Kaiser urged residents to celebrate at home and avoid mixing households.

"In the last week, we have had a significant increase in outside visitors interested in coming to our City to watch the fireworks," said Mayor Brian Tisdale. "We have seen first-hand what can happen when our community is overrun by visitors. We have limited resources and we have serious concerns about our ability to ensure the safety of our community."

In 2019, the City faced significant challenges when thousands of visitors descended on the community to see the Super Bloom.

In addition, with the Governor poised to send out strike teams to enforce his orders, the City did not want Lake Elsinore to become a target for enforcement that could lead to future state funding restrictions. It is out of this abundance of caution, coupled with the obvious threat to public health that the City felt compelled to take this action.

The Annual Fireworks Spectacular was planned to take place on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. The City will issue refunds to those who have purchased Night Lake Use Passes to watch the show on the water. More information will be posted on the City's website at [www.lake-elsinore.org/july4th](http://www.lake-elsinore.org/july4th).

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