

## **Notice of Emergency Actions by Boulder County Community Planning & Permitting Department**

On March 10, 2020, the State of Colorado declared a state of emergency in Colorado concerning the COVID-19 outbreak. On March 13, 2020, the federal government declared a national emergency regarding the same. Similar declarations have occurred throughout the United States. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, staff in the Boulder County Community Planning & Permitting Department (CPP) and other county departments that act as referral agencies on land use, access, and building permit applications are operating at a reduced capacity by working at home or taking leave when working at home is not feasible. This significantly reduces CPP's ability to perform the functions they typically do.

Article 19-100 of the Boulder County Land Use Code gives the Land Use Director, County Engineer, or Chief Building Official the authority to establish a moratorium on the issuance of permits they administer including but not limited to building permits, access permits, and acceptance of land use permit applications or other permit applications related to the use, development, and occupancy of private property authorized under the Land Use Code, adopted building codes, and related ordinances, provided that such action is reasonably justifiable to protect life and property and to conduct recovery activities in a prioritized and orderly fashion.

Per Article 19-100.C.2, any temporary cessation of land use permit applications will include applications currently under review governed by codified timeframes for that review (such as Site Plan Review).

In order to comply with public health directives to work remotely and slow the spread of COVID-19, CPP is currently unable to accept new planning and permit applications (building permits, floodplain development permits, etc.).

CPP is in the process of developing a system for submittal of online applications. Once this system is in place, CPP will begin accepting new planning and building applications. However, due to the circumstances described above, application timelines and deadlines will still need to be modified or suspended. Certain actions required as part of application or permit review cannot take place while staff are complying with public health directives to stay out of the community or remote technology does not allow. For these reasons, acceptance and complete review of planning applications and acceptance and issuance of permits must be suspended until further notice.

In addition, the review timeframe of planning applications that are currently being processed, as well as planning applications that will be accepted online in the future, is suspended until further notice.

No planning applications will be deemed approved based on a delay beyond any time periods mentioned in the Land Use Code while this declaration remains in place.

Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, these actions are necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Dated: March 23, 2020

*Dale Case*  
Dale Case, Community Planning & Permitting Director

REVIEWED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BOULDER COUNTY  
ON 04/14/2020 (DATE):

*Deb Gardner*  
Deb Gardner, Chair

*Matt Jones*  
Matt Jones, Vice Chair

*Elise Jones*  
Elise Jones, Commissioner

ATTEST:

*Cecilia Lacey*  
Clerk to the Board