

## Legislative Advisory Coalition Update for August 11, 2020

### Public Health Update

- Some Archuleta County commissioners have called for the county to pull out of San Juan Basin Public Health and create their own public health department.
- La Plata County staff is working to schedule a joint meeting with SJBPH's Board of Directors and Archuleta and La Plata county commissioners.

### Durango City Manager Hiring Update

- Durango City Council has named Amber Blake, Interim City Manager, as a finalist in the search for a new city manager.
- Other candidates include Jose Madrigal, the interim solid waste services director in Irving, Texas and Kevin Knutson, who already accepted another position in Florida.
- The next step in the hiring process is community vetting.

### Land Use Code Update

- On July 23, the La Plata County Planning Commission approved the draft Land Use Code, forwarding it on to the Board of County Commissioners.
- The BOCC is in the process of holding hearings to take public input through August 11.
- All public comments received by August 14, 2020 will be considered for Version 3 of the draft land use code.
- Comments may be made any time online using the [Comment Portal](#) or via email to [NewCode@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:NewCode@co.laplata.co.us). Comments may also be during the hearings via Zoom or in person at La Plata County Administration Building in the Board Room.
- Some of the topics raised by attendees include (but are not limited to):
  - Are there too many instances of Director Determinations and Director discretion in the Code,
  - Has the public had enough time to comment,
  - Are Registered District Advisory Committees too formalized,
  - Is there enough allowance for small scale processing of fruits and vegetables.

### Durango Financial Update

- Sales Tax in June was down 6.2% and down 4.6% year to date.
- Lodgers Tax in June was down 72.8% and down 40.7% year to date.
- See the June report here: <https://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/17662/June-2020-Sales-Tax-Snapshot-PDF>
- The tax history report is here: <https://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/16282/Sales-Tax-History-Report?bidId=>

### LPC Financial Update

- Sales tax collections for June show an increase of 5.45% in comparison to the same period in 2019. Year to date, Sales tax has increased 18.59% over the same period in 2019. County Manager Chuck Stevens attributed the increase in part to a spike in online retail sales.
- Lodger's tax collections for Quarter 1 show a decrease of -18.05% from the same period in 2019.
- Highway User's tax payments for May 2020 are up by 1.90% compared to the same period in 2019. Year to date, Highway Users Tax is down by -12.40% over the same period in 2019.
- See the Tax Collection Report here:  
<https://cms9files.revize.com/laplatacounty/finance-procurement/Tax%20Collection%20Reports/2020/2020%20Historical%20Tax%20Collection%20-%20June%202020.pdf>

### Fire Restrictions Update

- La Plata County Commissioners approved a resolution rescinding fire restrictions on August 4, 2020 for all private lands in the unincorporated areas of La Plata County and on all land owned by La Plata County excluding those lands in the town of Bayfield, Ignacio, Durango or any Federal or Tribal lands.
- Southern Ute lifted fire restrictions on July 29.
- The BLM removed restrictions on BLM managed lands within the boundaries of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, and San Miguel counties as of July 30.
- Durango Interim City Manager Amber Blake announced plans to remove restrictions at the City Council meeting of Aug 4.

### Bonita Peak Update

- July 29th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a proposed plan for a site-wide repository to centrally manage mine waste at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund site (BPMD). The site consists of historic and ongoing releases from mining operations in Mineral Creek, Cement Creek, and Upper Animas, which converge into the Animas River near Silverton, Colorado.
- A 30-day public comment period will be open from July 29, 2020–August 27, 2020. You can submit your comments to Katherine Jenkins by phone at (303) 312-6351 or email at [jenkins.katherine@epa.gov](mailto:jenkins.katherine@epa.gov).
- EPA will hold a virtual public meeting on August 11, 2020 from 6–8 p.m. to explain the proposed plan and encourage public comments.

### Durango Building Permits

	Single Fam New	Redmodel/Add	Commercial New/Remodel	Mechanical/ Plumbing	Other
<b>April</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>

### La Plata County Permits

<b>April</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>

### Durango Projects Approved

- On 7/21/20, the Durango City Council approved the Walecki-Hamill Preliminary Minor Subdivision, consisting of a request to move the common property line between two residential lots to reflect the actual use of the properties. The two properties are addressed as 2303 (the southern house) and 2305 (the northern house) Hermosa Avenue.
- On 7/21/20, the Durango City Council approved a boundary adjustment and rezone for Philip Wehmeyer of 915 Hidden Valley Circle.
- On 7/21/20, the Durango City Council approved the Guiet Rezone and the Barker-Guiet Boundary Adjustment & Lot Consolidation Preliminary Plan. The properties are addressed as 405 W. 28th Street (Guiet) and 7 Carol Drive (Barker).

### Meetings attended July 14 - August 11

7/14 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda 7/14 - 4 pm Durango Council Study Session 7/15 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time 7/16 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission 7/21 - 10 am BOCC Planning Agenda 7/21 - 6 pm Durango City Council Meeting 7/22 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time 7/23 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission 7/27 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission CANCELLED	7/28 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda 7/28 - 4 pm Durango City Council Study Session 7/29 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time 8/4 - 10 am BOCC Special Business Meeting 8/4 - 2 pm BOCC Special Planning Meeting 8/4 - 6 pm BOCC Special Planning Meeting 8/4 - 6:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting 8/5 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time 8/6 - 11 am DAAR Gov't Affairs Meeting POSTPONED 8/11 - 9:15 am LAC Meeting
---	--