

March 18, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Irrigation Association is the national trade association representing companies that manufacture, distribute, install and maintain landscape irrigation systems and technologies. With a mission to “promote efficient irrigation,” our goal is to ensure our nation’s water infrastructure is protected, while maintaining our nation’s landscapes.

The landscape irrigation industry stands with the federal, state and local governments during the COVID-19 public health emergency. We thank you for all you are doing to keep the American public safe, while ensuring essential services are readily available to those in need. It’s imperative that our citizens have access to services that keep them safe and our nation’s infrastructure reliable.

While irrigation is a core component to managing many of our nation’s parks, as well as commercial and residential landscapes, it’s also a core component of our nation’s water infrastructure. While many homes rely on the public water supply for irrigation, the science and engineering behind an irrigation system keeps our public water supply and the customer’s water supply safe, while ensuring our communities are safer and cleaner through a living managed landscape.

Recently, counties in and around the Greater San Francisco metropolitan area enacted a temporary “lockdown.” We anticipate other municipalities and states to take similar precautionary steps. The “lockdown” issued by these counties exempt “essential services,” which includes the language below:

*ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to **maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses***

With the public’s health, safety and welfare in mind, we believe that landscape irrigation should be included in essential services:

- We are entering the spring months when many irrigation systems will be turned on by the homeowner/property manager. It is imperative that these systems are professionally

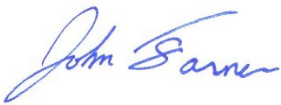
inspected (in accordance with state and local codes and regulations), ensuring there are no leaks and the backflow prevention device is operating properly.

- Properly maintained landscapes and greenspaces lessen crime and reduce injuries, lessening the strain on our already-stressed health care system.
- Properly run irrigation systems do not waste water. We need to ensure water is available for all uses during this health emergency. Ensuring irrigation systems are doing their job and running properly is an essential component in protecting our nation's water supply.

Our industry is taking significant steps to ensure their businesses are being run in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. The Irrigation Association continues to be a resource for our members, the industry and the government in protecting our public's health.

We stand with our nation's public officials in addressing this public health emergency, while providing these essential services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Farner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Farner
Government and Public Affairs Director