



CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, Inc.

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Attention: All Members of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Subject: Cancellation of CGCI's 2020 Convention

In accordance with Article XI, Sec. 1 in CGCI's bylaws, the CGCI Board of Directors has voted and approved cancellation of the 2020 Annual convention scheduled May 26-30, 2020 in South San Francisco. This difficult decision is made in light of the numerous states of emergency recently declared by federal, state, county and local city officials regarding the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We are grateful to all members who have generously donated both their time and talent to organize this convention. A special 'thank you' to Bay Ocean and Santa Clara Valley District members for their hard work! Stay tuned for future convention announcements.

Guidelines and restrictions from various levels of public health authorities are changing often - for example:

*Large events/mass gatherings are currently limited to 50 people or less for the next eight weeks by the Center for Disease Control to try to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

*COVID-19 is especially dangerous for those individuals age 60 and older as well as anyone with underlying health challenges and limits gatherings to ten or less individuals.

*We are learning new vocabulary like "social distancing" – maintaining six feet spacing between individuals.

*The governor has now mandated all California residents to shelter in place by staying home until further notice that many of us have already been doing in Bay Area counties. See <https://covid19.ca.gov/> for details.

Please note the following links to help you stay informed, stay positive and stay connected making decisions for yourself as well as garden club/associate plant society meetings, activities and special events:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/covid19>

In addition to these websites, we suggest you also monitor your county and local city public health websites for current guidelines and restrictions. The COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation.

The safety and health of CGCI members in addition to our organization is of utmost importance! These are uncertain times for all of us but **together, we will get through it**. CGCI members are dedicated and caring members that make this organization strong. Stay safe, stay healthy and stay informed!

Sincerely,

Shane Looper

Plant America: Plant Parks

TAX EXEMPT STATUS

California Garden Clubs, Inc. operates as an exempt organization under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (RC 1986) and is listed in the Cumulative List of Exempt Organizations, Publication 78, which can be found on the IRS website at www.irs.gov. The basis for the exemption is education. CGCI is primarily an educational organization. CGCI is listed in the State of California Registry of Charitable Organizations as a charitable trust, with the identification number CT-016120. Reference for this exemption is the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

Sec. 23701d or Sec. 23701f.

Visit our website at: www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.com