

From: [Zee, Stacey \(FAA\)](#)
To: [Orms, Mary](#)
Cc: [Reyes, Ernesto](#); [Ardizzone, Chuck CA](#); [Kendal Keyes](#); [Winton, Bryan](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: SpaceX
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:20:40 PM

Mary – thank you for this update. I'll talk to Matt and Katy this week and get back to you.

From: Orms, Mary <mary_orms@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Zee, Stacey (FAA) <Stacey.Zee@faa.gov>
Cc: Reyes, Ernesto <ernesto_reyes@fws.gov>; Ardizzone, Chuck CA <chuck_ardizzone@fws.gov>; Kendal Keyes <Kendal.Keyes@tpwd.texas.gov>; Winton, Bryan <bryan_winton@fws.gov>
Subject: SpaceX

Ms. Stacey Zee
Office of Commercial Space Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Stacey,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

County Judge Trevino issued an order on March 31, 2020, for the temporary closure of a portion of State Highway 4, near the entrance of Boca Chica Beach, for anticipated launch activities for SpaceX. The closure was listed for April 1, 2020, 4 pm to 5 pm and 8 pm to 9 pm Central Standard Time. Backup dates are April 2nd through the 8th, although the order does not mention the backup dates. Those dates were posted on the Cameron County website.

The order also states that Boca Chica Beach will remain closed under the First Amended Emergency Management Order with Mandatory Countywide Shelter in Place during this road closure, but the next paragraph states the beach will remain open during this temporary road closure. We assume this means that the beach is usually open except for times it is temporarily closed for SpaceX, but now due to Shelter in Place Order it is closed until further notice.

The shelter in place order was issued for Cameron County on March 23, 2020, for 14 days. Exemptions and provisions for leaving residences were for essential personnel activities, to obtain health care, perform essential infrastructure operations perform or access essential government functions, or to operate essential businesses.

The Service is concerned that SpaceX continues to have hundreds of workers onsite.

Construction is ongoing 24 hours a day and night, seven days a week, increasing noise, lighting and human impacts to threatened and endangered species. Parking is insufficient at the site, there are many cars parked along SH 4 ROW narrowing traffic access and increasing wildlife roadkill potential. Researchers needing access to monitor various species and perform study site activities are impeded by closures for testing that may or may not occur.

This is an example of excessive closures, inconsistency in how we calculate hours of closures, inconsistency of proper notification protocol, monitoring not being performed prior to and after closures, and increased impacts not analyzed under the EIS, BA and BO that FAA has requested re-initiation on.

With the current COVID-19 situation and concern for our Refuge and law enforcement personnel in the area, we do not know if SpaceX was deemed essential. We hope SpaceX has been able to adhere to all recommended measures and issued orders to prevent the spread of the virus to their employees and community.

We request clarification of the two different closure orders, and how SpaceX is logging the hours of closures. We would also like to know if pre- and post monitoring is being accomplished and if researchers are given ample opportunity to get onsite during the closure notices.

Thank you for your help on this. Keep safe.

Mary Orms