

# Dear MLB, America Needs You!

Hi Major League Baseball, I'm Colin Ruthenberg, a super fan of the game of baseball. I play ball here in San Diego, California at Southwestern College and we, like millions around the nation, had our season cancelled. With the reality of no baseball setting in (and the uncanny amount of time I have had on my hands) I decided to be proactive and look for ways to get Major League Baseball back as fast as possible. I have studied some of the toughest questions revolving around the complex issue of the return of the game our country loves and misses so much. I think I have a solution to the issue. Combine my two favorite things in the world, San Diego and baseball. That's right. Bring the MLB to San Diego, America's Finest City!

We have the best climate in the nation mixed with outstanding facilities at all levels of baseball including our local D1 colleges all the way down to my own school, Southwestern College. Below I have laid out the most immaculate fields in the region and best of all, they are ALL within 50 minutes of one another (you can't even say that in Arizona!) I also have included local fields outside of the stadiums so teams can maximize practice time, an opening day that showcases how easy the logistics of this plan is, and hotels that are located within 5 minutes of each field! All I ask is that you consider this proposal because I feel I have come up with a great, safe solution to the issue. Better and safer than Arizona, better and safer than Florida, better and safer than travel from city to city in such unprecedented times. Coronavirus took my season from me, don't let it take the MLB away from America! We need you.

#MLBReturns

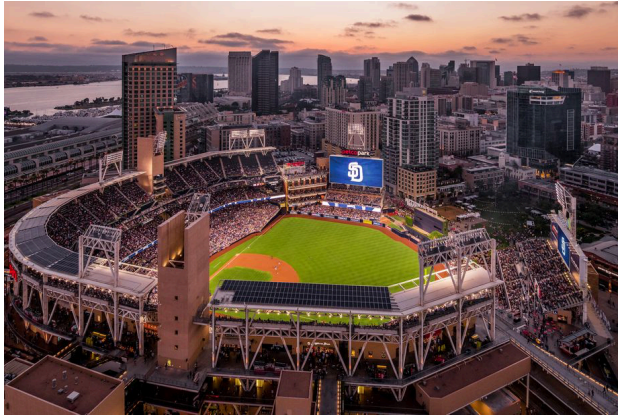
Thank you,  
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## Field Locations and Information:



### 1) Petco Park

100 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101

- **Left** - 334 ft.,
- **Center** - 396 ft.
- **Right** - 322 ft.
- **Hotels near by:** [Omni San](#)

[Diego Hotel](#), [Hilton San Diego Bayfront](#), [Hard Rock Hotel San Diego](#), [San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter](#)

- **Lights:** Yes
- 



### 2) University of San Diego - 5998 Alcalá Park,

San Diego, CA 92110

- **Left** - 312 ft.
- **Center** - 391 ft.
- **Right** - 327 ft.
- **Hotels:** [Hilton San Diego](#)

[Mission Valley](#), [Double Tree by Hilton Hotel San Diego - Hotel Circle](#), [Homewood Suites by Hilton San Diego Mission Valley](#), [Hampton Inn San Diego/Mission Valley](#)

- **Lights:** Yes
- 



### 3) University of California, San Diego

- 9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA 92093

- **Left** - 330 ft.
- **Center** - 400 ft.
- **Right** - 330 ft.
- **Hotels:** [Estancia La Jolla](#)

[Hotel & Spa](#), [San Diego Marriott La Jolla](#), [Hyatt Regency La Jolla At Aventine](#)

- **Lights:** Yes
-



4) San Diego State University - 5500

Campanile Dr, San Diego, CA 92182

- **Left** - 340 ft.
- **Center** - 412 ft.
- **Right** - 340 ft.
- **Hotels:** [SpringHill Suites by Marriott San Diego Mission Valley](#), [San Diego Marriott Mission Valley](#)
- **Lights:** Yes



5) Palomar Community College - 1140 W

Mission Rd, San Marcos, CA 92069

- **Left** - 320 ft.
- **Center** - 400 ft.
- **Right** - unknown
- **Hotels:** [Residence Inn by Marriott San Diego North/San Marcos](#), [Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott San Diego North/San Marcos](#), [Hampton Inn San Marcos](#)
- **Lights:** **No**





6) Southwestern Community College - 900 Otay Lakes Rd, Chula Vista, CA 91910

- **Left** - 360 ft.
- **Center** - 400 ft.
- **Right** - 360 ft.
- **Hotels:** [Residence Inn by Marriott San Diego Chula Vista](#), [Ayres Hotel San Diego South - Chula Vista](#), [Hampton Inn Chula Vista Eastlake](#), [Best Western Chula Vista/Otay Valley Hotel](#)
- **Lights:** **No**



*After a second expansion in 1997 turned Qualcomm Stadium into a football-oriented arena, the Padres began looking elsewhere for a new ballpark.*



7) SDCCU Stadium - 9449 Friars Rd, San Diego, CA 92108

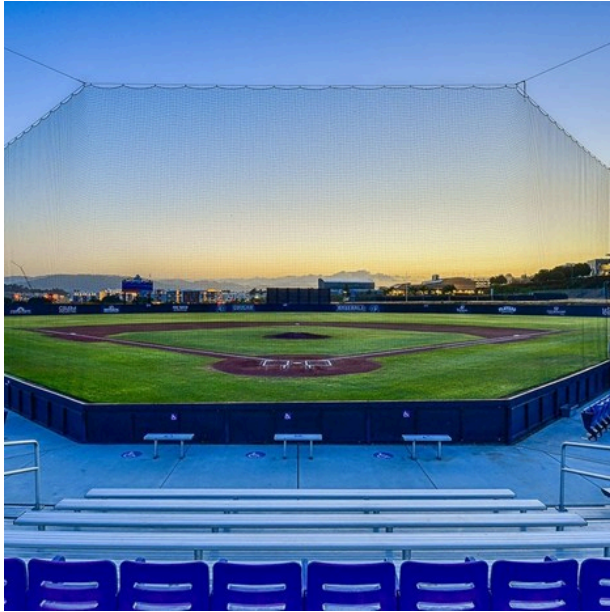
- **Hotels:** [SpringHill Suites by Marriott San Diego Mission Valley](#), [San Diego Marriott Mission Valley](#), [Four Points by Sheraton San Diego](#)

○ **Lights:** Yes

○ **Notes:** Currently set up as a football field, could be and has been transformed in the past. San Diego Padres played there (Jack Murphy/Qualcomm stadium) from 1968 - 2003.

■ Could have potential issues with College football in September. (Used by SDSU Aztecs, Saturday only)





8) Cal State San Marcos - 555 Campus View Dr,  
San Marcos, CA 92078

- **Left** - 325 ft.
- **Center** - 395 ft.
- **Right** - unknown
- **Hotels:** [Residence Inn by Marriott San Diego North/San Marcos](#), [Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott San Diego North/San Marcos](#), [Hampton Inn San Marcos](#)
- **Lights:** **No**

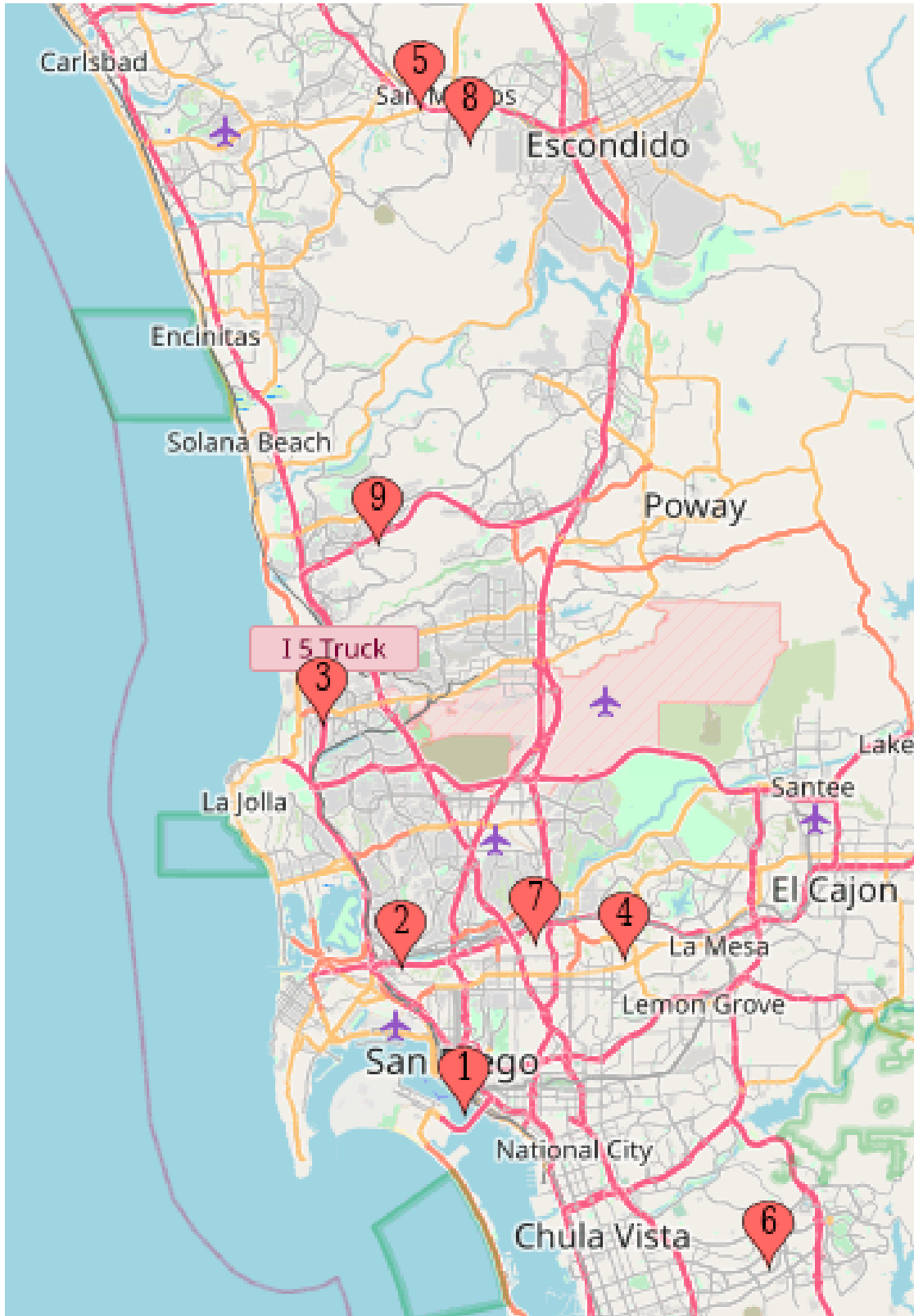


9) Cathedral Catholic High  
School - 5555 Del Mar Heights Rd, San Diego, CA  
92130

- a. **Left** - 325 ft.
- b. **Center** - 390 ft.
- c. **Right** - unknown
- d. **Hotel:** [Hotel Fairmont Grand Del Mar](#), [Homewood Suites by Hilton San Diego-Del Mar](#), [Hilton Garden Inn San Diego Del Mar](#)
- e. **Lights:** **No**



(aerial view)



- 1) Petco Park - 2) University of San Diego (USD) - 3) University of California, San Diego (UCSD) - 4) San Diego State (SDSU) - 5) Palomar College - 6) Southwestern College - 7) SDCCU Stadium - 8) Cal State San Marcos (CSUSM) - 9) Cathedral Catholic

**Climate** - Average daily highs from June - September:

(Source - [NOAA](#))

**San Diego** = 75.5° F

**Phoenix** = 103.75 ° F

**Florida** = 90° F

## **Covid-19 statistics as of May 7th, 6pm ET**

(Source - <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/usa/>):

**San Diego County**: 4,321 cases | 158 deaths | 1,294 cases per 1,000,000 | 47 deaths per 1,000,000

**Maricopa County**: 5,138 Cases | 186 deaths | 1,146 cases per 1,000,000 | 41 deaths per 1,000,000

**Florida**: 38,831 cases | 1,661 deaths | 1,885 cases per 1,000,000 | 78 deaths per 1,000,000

## **Potential structure:**

- ❑ Each stadium hosts 1-2 games a day
  - ❑ Fields 1,2,3,4,7 have lights and can therefore host afternoon and night games
    - ❑ Start times: 4:10pm ET, 10:10pm ET
    - ❑ 10:10PM time slot will be used primarily for west coast teams
    - ❑ **No fans allowed at the fields, social distancing is still a must**
  - ❑ Fields 5, 6, 8, 9 (no lights) start times can be @ 1:10pm ET, and 7:10pm ET
    - ❑ East coast teams can be scheduled to have more day games to enhance ratings/viewership by their local fans
- ❑ Ideally keep divisions and league structure intact
- ❑ Typical day for a team (ex. Brewers) could look like:
  - ❑ Brewers are located in Mission Valley staying at SpringHill Suites by Marriott San Diego Mission Valley near their “home field” @ San Diego State
  - ❑ They have a game @ 7:10 ET located at Location 2 (USD)
  - ❑ Team has charter busses (same driver, same bus everyday) ready to go at the hotel and takes them directly to the field. Following the completion of the game, they go directly back to the hotel which is reserved for that team and NO ONE else.
  - ❑ Their hotel to USD is a 10 min drive, only 5.8 miles away.
- ❑ The worst case game situation for a team {ex. Orioles}(farthest travel possible):
- ❑ The Orioles are staying near their “home field” located near Southwestern College and have a 10PM ET game at Palomar College
  - ❑ The Orioles would need to travel from the Residence Inn by Marriott San Diego Chula Vista to Palomar College (50 min drive, 50 miles) in order to play their game.



## Potential practice and batting practice sites:

\*Note: Time and miles are from location listed\*

Key: + means field has similar proximity to another location

Location 1 (Petco Park):

San Diego High School - 6 min (2.3 mi) | 1 field

Morley Sports Complex - 7 min (2.7 mi) | Multiple fields

Location 2 (USD):

Francis Parker Upper School - 4 min (0.8 mi) | 1 field

+Kearney Senior High School - 9 min (3.1 mi) | 1 field

Mesa College - 9 min (3.8 mi) | 1 field

Location 3 (UCSD):

La Jolla Country Day - 2 min (0.3 mi) | 1 field \*turf\*

University City High School - 6 min (1.6 mi) | 1 field \*small left field, potential loss of baseballs\*

Mission Bay High school - 10 min (6.8 mi) | 1 field

Location 4 (SDSU):

Hoover High School - 8 min (3.4 mi)

Patrick Henry High School - 12 min (3.8 mi) | 1 field

+Grossmont College - 14 min (8.1 mi) | 1 field

Location 5 (Palomar):

+San Marcos High School - 7 min (2.0 mi) | 1 field

+Mission Hills High School - 7 min (2.4 mi) | 1 field

+Escondido High School - 11 min (7.5 mi) | 1 field

+Sage Creek High School - 16 min (10.7 mi) | 1 field

Location 6 (Southwestern):

Bonita Vista High School - 1 min (0.3 mi) | 1 field

Otay Ranch High School - 5 min (2.2 mi) | 1 field

Eastlake High School - 7 min (3.0 mi) | 1 field

Location 7 (SDCCU):

Serra High School - 6 min (3.7 mi) | 1 field

+Kearny Senior High School - 10 min (4.3 mi) | 1 field

Grossmont High School - 13 min (9.4 mi) | 1 field  
+Grossmont College - 12 min (10.6 mi) | 1 field

Location 8 (CSUSM):

+Mission Hills High School - 5 min (1.4 mi) | 1 field  
+Escondido High School - 8 min (5.1 mi) | 1 field  
+San Marcos High School - 10 min (3.2 mi) | 1 field  
+Sage Creek High School - 17 min (13.3 mi) | 1 field

Location 9 (Cathedral):

Canyon Crest High School - 3 min (0.8 mi) | 1 field  
Torrey Pines High School - 5 min (2.0 mi) | 1 field  
Westview High School - 9 min (4.4 mi) | 1 field  
Mt. Carmel High School - 11 min (7.7 mi) | 1 field

## **Why is San Diego better than Phoenix?**

1. Weather!!!
  - a. San Diego's average temperature from June-September is 28° F cooler
  - b. Petco Park has ONLY endured 3 rain delays since 2004 when it opened here in San Diego, with the last one being in 2017.
  - c. Phoenix temperatures can reach up to 120° F
  - d. Phoenix temperature highs (last 4 years) August, 2019 - 115°F | July, 2018 - 116°F | June, 2017 - 119°F | June, 2016 - 118°F
  - e. Playing in 100°F+ while seems like a viable option to play in AZ, can cause serious health hazards among players
2. Proximity
  - a. The longest drive for the proposed San Diego plan is 50 minutes from Southwestern College to Palomar College.
  - b. Phoenix sports the longer drive between Surprise and Mesa which takes 53 minutes
  - c. 6 of the San Diego fields are within a 25 minute driving range, and 4 of the central locations including Petco Park are within 15 minutes!
3. Covid-19
  - a. The coronavirus cases and deaths are very comparable here in San Diego county to Maricopa County (see above)
    - i. The big difference is while Arizona is just getting started with restrictions and an uptick in cases, San Diego is easing stay-at-home restrictions.
    - ii. California was the first state to impose a statewide stay-at-home order and has been extremely adamant about the safety and well-being of the people.

## Why is San Diego safer than teams staying in their hometown and traveling?

1. Reduced travel
  - a. The growing concern for the players safety during travel has merit.
    - i. Traveling in airplanes and airports would expose the players, coaches, and support staff to some of the hotbeds for the virus.
    - ii. Staying in new hotels from city to city poses health hazards, as there is no way to know who has been staying in them as well as the health and safety standards the hotels use.
2. Hotspots
  - a. Teams home fields are located in areas such as Los Angeles, New York, Boston, and Chicago. These areas have been hit especially hard and should not be hosting sporting events.
  - b. Covid cases in these 'hometowns'
    1. Statistics current of May 7th, 6PM ET
    - ii. **Los Angeles** (LA County) cases: **2,930 per 1 million**
    - iii. **New York** (State #'s due to NYM, NYY) Covid cases: **17,199 per 1 million**
    - iv. **Boston** (Suffolk County) cases: **9,801 per 1 million**
    - v. **Chicago** (Cook County) cases: **7,508 per 1 million**
    - vi. \*Reminder\* - **San Diego** (SD County) cases: **1,294 per 1 million**
  - c. Traveling to and from these hotspots poses great potential to further spread this nasty virus.

### ↓ What the schedule could look like ↓

Teams:

**AL E:** 1.BAL 2.BOS 3.NYY 4.TB 5.TOR  
**AL C:** 6.CWS 7.CLE 8.DET 9.KC 10.MIN  
**AL W:** 11.HOU 12.LAA 13.OAK 14.SEA 15.TEX  
**NL E:** 16.ATL 17.MIA 18.NYM 19.PHI 20.WSH  
**NL C:** 21.CHC 22.CIN 23.MIL 24.PIT 25.STL  
**NL W:** 26.ARI 27.COL 28.LAD 29.SD 30.SF

#### **Home locations:**

Field 1) Teams: 9, 10, 11, 15  
Field 2) Teams: 27, 28, 29, 30  
Field 3) Teams: 16, 20, 21, 22  
Field 4) Teams: 12, 13, 14  
Field 5) Teams: 3, 4  
Field 6) Teams: 6, 7, 8  
Field 7) Teams: 23, 25, 26  
Field 8) Teams: 1, 2, 5  
Field 9) Teams: 17, 18, 19, 24



**{Potential opening day}**

July 1st:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1) 8 (DET) v 9 (KC), 1:10pm ET;           | 10 (MIN) v 11 (HOU) 7:10pm ET         |
| 2) 29 (SD) v 30 (SF), 4:10pm ET ;         | <b>27 (COL) v 28 (LAD) 10:10pm ET</b> |
| 3) 16 (ATL) v 17 (MIA), 1:10pm ET;        | 21 (CHC) v 22 (CIN) 7:10pm ET         |
| 4) <b>13 (OAK) v 14 (SEA), 4:10pm ET;</b> | 26 (ARI) v 25 (STL) 10:10pm ET        |
| 5) 1 (BAL) v 12 (LAA), 4:10pm ET          |                                       |
| 6) 6 (CWS) v 7 (CLE), 4:10pm ET           |                                       |
| 7) 15 (TEX) v 20 (WSH) 1:10pm ET;         | 23 (MIL) v 24 (PIT), 7:10pm ET ;      |
| 8) <b>2 (BOS) v 3 (NYY) 1:10pm ET;</b>    | <b>4 (TB) v 5 (TOR) 7:10pm ET</b>     |
| 9) 19 (PHI) v 18 (NYM) 1:10pm ET          |                                       |

Games starting at 1:10pm ET, 4:10pm ET, 7:10pm ET, and 10:10pm ET (Baseball all day!)

**\*Potential/likely primetime for each time slot\***

**Medical Personal:**

1. Teams already have medical staff that would travel with them.
2. 5 of the 9 facilities listed have medical rooms while the others would need an modern style approach by using [medical pop up tents](#), (link provided to show concept)
3. San Diego boasts world class hospital systems. One of the sites (UCSD) has a top-notch hospital just beyond the outfield.

**Return to normalcy:**

1. We all want to get MLB teams back in their parks. While not feasible for the foreseeable future, it is important to have that in mind when scheduling.
2. Given the unknown nature of this virus, we very well could see a time later during this season where we could have teams return to their home parks.
3. Schedules should account for this, having interleague/divisional games early in the season where travel distances would be longer. Leaving divisional matchups and interleague play for the latter half of the season would be instrumental in a plan to get teams back in their parks.