



Board Agenda Item 2

DATE: March 17, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Jean M. Rousseau, County Administrative Officer/Emergency Services Director

SUBJECT: Proclamation and Ratification of a Local Emergency - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Adopt Resolution proclaiming and ratifying a Local Emergency, due to the imminent and proximate threat of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Approval of the recommended action will ensure that the local emergency status proclaimed by the Emergency Services Director on March 15, 2020, remains in effect and allows for the potential recovery of eligible costs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

No viable options are available.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommended action is necessary to ensure specific liability protection, emergency powers of the Emergency Services Director, and potential recovery of eligible costs, if any, from State and Federal emergency funds.

DISCUSSION:

A Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the virus to be a very serious public health threat. The exact modes of transmission, the factors facilitating human-to-human transmission, the extent of asymptomatic viral shedding, the groups most at risk of serious illness, the attack rate, and the case fatality rate all remain active areas of investigation. The CDC believes at this time that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

There are nearly 165,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 6,470 deaths to date worldwide. Though concentrated in China, COVID-19 has been reported in 146 areas, countries, territories and include individuals who never visited China. The World Health Organization made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic. Approximately 1,630 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States and at least 41 deaths have been reported. As of March 16, 2020, 47 States reported cases of COVID-19. There are 335 confirmed cases in California and at least 6 deaths have been reported in California due to COVID-19. On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in California.

Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County of Fresno have been verified. The County Health Officer has determined there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 and has issued a local health emergency. Based on the experience of other California counties, it can be reasonably expected that other positive tests will soon follow. The County's Department of Public Health has been in regular communication with hospitals, clinics, CDC, and the California Department of Public Health.

On March 15, 2020, pursuant to California Government Code (GC), Section (§) 8630 and Fresno County Ordinance Code, Chapter 2.44, due to the imminent and proximate threat of exposure of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), a local emergency was proclaimed by the County Administrative Officer as the Emergency Services Director.

Pursuant to California Government Code, section (§) 8630 and Fresno County Ordinance, Chapter 2.44, it is recommended that your Board proclaim and ratify the Emergency Services Director's Proclamation of a Local Emergency due to the imminent and proximate threat of exposure of COVID-19 on the residents of the County of Fresno. The proclamation will be forwarded to the State Office of Emergency Services.

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - Resolution Proclaiming and Ratifying the Existence of a Local Emergency
On file with Clerk - Proclamation of a Local Emergency by the Emergency Services Director

CAO ANALYST:

Raul Guerra