

**PROCLAMATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE CITY OF MORRO BAY, IN THE COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY WITHIN THE CITY OF MORRO BAY (COVID-19)**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19) was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China; and,

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that may result in serious illness or death and is easily transmissible from person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has since spread outside of China, impacting more than 100 countries, now including the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 at present has sickened more than 120,000 people around the world, over 1,300 in the United States and nearly 200 in California, COVID-19 has killed over 4,300 people worldwide, and there has been a significant escalation of United States domestic cases of and deaths from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") activated its Emergency Response System to provide ongoing support for the response to COVID-19 across the country, and;

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Public Health has activated its Medical and Health Coordination Center, and the Office of Emergency Services recently activated the State Operations Center to provide support and guide actions to preserve public health; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 3, 2020, Governor Newsom declared the existence of a state of emergency for the State of California; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the Director-General for the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 can be characterized as a "pandemic"; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the County of San Luis Obispo Health Officer declared a public health emergency, the County of San Luis Obispo Emergency Services Director proclaimed a local emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and local school closures went into effect; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department announced the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County after an individual in San Luis Obispo County tested positive for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety and welfare of City of Morro Bay ("City") residents, businesses, visitors and staff are of utmost importance to the City and additional future measures

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may be needed to protect the community; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases within the City, and to prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals who may require medical care; and

**WHEREAS**, preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from the spread of COVID-19 requires the City to divert resources from normal day-to-day operations, and has and will continue to impose extraordinary requirements on and expenses to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, strict compliance with certain municipal code and other City regulations would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, which issue cannot be timely addressed absent a declaration of local emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the mobilization of local resources, ability to coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, use mutual aid, and allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments will be critical to successfully responding to COVID-19, the City may require additional assistance in the future, and proclamation of local emergency allows additional resources to flow to the City in a timely manner; and

**WHEREAS**, Morro Bay Municipal Code ("MBMC") § 8.08.050(A) appoints the City Manager as the Director of Emergency Services ("Director"); and

**WHEREAS**, MBMC § 8.08.020 defines "emergency," and that definition includes "actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the city caused by such conditions as... epidemics"; and

**WHEREAS**, MBMC § 8.08.060(A)(1) empowers the Director to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency if the City Council is not in session; and,

**WHEREAS**, per Government Code § 8630 a local emergency declared by the Director of Emergency Services shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, after consideration of all facts reasonably available presently for review and all items, the Director of Emergency Services now desires to proclaim the existence of a state of local emergency to make additional resources available to address the effects of COVID-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Director of Emergency Services for the City of Morro Bay does find and proclaim as follows:

1. The Director of Emergency Services finds that the actual existence of conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the City of Morro Bay, caused by the effects of COVID-19.
2. The Director of Emergency Services finds that the City Council is not currently in session and cannot be immediately called into session.
3. The aforementioned conditions warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence

of a local emergency by the City's Director of Emergency Services.

4. Pursuant to the authority granted by City ordinance, I hereby proclaim that a local emergency now exists throughout the City.
5. It is further proclaimed and ordered that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, authority, functions and duties of the Director of Emergency Services and the City's emergency services organizations shall be those prescribed by State Law, City ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the City in order to mitigate the effects of said local emergency.
6. Consistent with Government Code § 8630(b) the local emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the City Council.
7. This proclamation and its contents will be published and promulgated in as widespread a manner as is reasonably feasible under the conditions prevailing during this local emergency.
8. This proclamation of a local emergency shall take effect immediately as of the date first set forth below.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

3/14/2020

  
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Scott Collins, City Manager,  
Director of Emergency Services