

**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FOR THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code, empowers the County of Santa Barbara, Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Section 8558(c) of the Government Code defines a “Local Emergency” as: “the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor’s warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat”; and

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, causes infectious disease and was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath; outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the virus to be a very serious public health threat; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for conditions caused by COVID-19; and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Newsom and California Public Health state officials recommended that non-essential gatherings should be postponed or cancelled across the state at least until the end of March, in order to implement social distancing guidelines intended to protect all individuals, particularly those who are at higher risk for severe illness for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 12, 2020 there were 198 confirmed COVID-19 cases in California of which 24 cases are from repatriation flights and 4 deaths; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Health Officer of the County of Santa Barbara determined that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Barbara, and has declared a Local Health Emergency as a result; and

WHEREAS, the above described conditions are a threat to public health and create conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara, which are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to the impacts of this emergency and receive any needed funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act and any other State and Federal funding that may be available; and

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WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is not in session.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists in the entire Operational Area of the County of Santa Barbara as a result of COVID-19; and

1. That all the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. That the conditions of extreme peril are not the results of labor controversy; and
3. That this proclamation of local emergency, invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all of the powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8550 et seq.), Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12 and all other applicable laws, to be used by authorized personnel of the County of Santa Barbara; and
4. That, pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(b), the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to require emergency services of any county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any county department or agency; and
5. That a copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be posted on all outside public access doors of the County Administration Building, and County personnel shall endeavor to make copies of this Proclamation available to news media; and
6. That a copy of this Proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State law; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other State and Federal funds that may be available; and
7. That this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors, and extended, or unless sooner terminated and upon termination of the State Emergency, shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors, at least every 60 days until the local health emergency is terminated.

Dated: 3-12-20

Time: 5:45 pm



County Executive Officer
Director of Emergency Services
County of Santa Barbara