



**CITY OF SALINAS  
COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** December 3, 2019

**DEPARTMENT:** OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

**FROM:** RAY COPRUZ, CITY MANAGER

**TITLE:** DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

RECOMMENDATION MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution declaring a local emergency.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the proposed Resolution.

DISCUSSION:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan, China, and which has now been detected in more than 100 locations internationally, including the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

The spread of COVID-19 across the world has resulted in the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring COVID-19 to be a global pandemic. Prior to that, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Monterey County, on March 6, 2020, the County of Monterey took action locally to declare a local emergency throughout Monterey County as a result of COVID-19, thereby empowering the County Administrative Officer and his designees to take extraordinary actions that may be needed to protect the residents of Monterey County from this pandemic. In similar response, in response to COVID-19 and the threat posed by it to the residents and property within the city the City Manager, as the City’s Director of Emergency Services (Salinas Municipal Code Section 11A-6), invoked the City’s Emergency Response Plan and opened the City’s Emergency Communications Center (EOC). Consistent with that action, this Report and Resolution are presented pursuant to Salinas Municipal Code section 11A-6 and request that the City Council ratify the proclamation of a local emergency thereby positioning the City to work with its federal, state, and local partners to respond to the threat posed by COVID-19

and to protect the people and the property of Salinas from the threat of extreme peril caused by this global pandemic.

The public can access up-to-date information about COVID-19 directly from the CDC by accessing its website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>. The CDC's website contains information about the risks and what a person should do if they feel sick, as well as answering common questions about COVID-19. The public can also obtain more localized information by accessing the County of Monterey's website at <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>. The County of Monterey's website contains information for the public about COVID-19 and what they should do if they feel sick or are concerned about the spread of COVID-19.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The proposed declaration of local emergency is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (CEQA Guidelines section 15378)

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The declaration of a local emergency directly supports the City Council's goal of Public Safety.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Ratification of the declaration of local emergency does not have any direct impact on the City's General Fund, Measure E, or Measure G, but will position the City to recover its costs in responding to the emergency.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

All of the City's departments are coordinating in the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (N.C.S.)**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8630, et seq.) establishes procedures for proclaiming emergencies and for responding promptly to the needs that arise during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Section 11A-6.A of the Salinas Municipal Code and Section 8630 of the Government Code empower the City Manager to proclaim or to request that the City Council proclaim the existence of a local emergency when there is the 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 air pollution, fire, flood, storm, Epidemic, riot, or earthquake or other conditions; and

WHEREAS, the United States has confirmed cases of individuals who have a severe acute respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in more than one hundred locations internationally, including the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) officials have reported that sustained human-to-human transmission of the virus is occurring and transmission from an asymptomatic individual has been documented. Although most individuals affected with COVID-19 recover from the disease without special treatment, some may become seriously ill, particularly those with compromised immune systems or underlying health issues; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, with the spread of COVID-19 across more than 100 countries, the WHO has declared that COVID-19 now qualifies as a global pandemic. The WHO has reported there is now evidence on six continents of sustained transmission of the virus, which has infected more than 120,000 people and killed more than 4,300; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, WHO, declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, and on January 31, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency for the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the CDC reported a total of 939 cases across 39 jurisdictions reporting cases, with 29 deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, while there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Monterey County, on March 6, 2020, the County of Monterey declared the existence of a local emergency throughout Monterey County so that it may take the efforts necessary to monitor ongoing communicable disease threats and prepare for management of individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that the virus presents a serious public health threat, requiring coordination among state and local health departments to ensure readiness for potential health threats associated with the virus; and

WHEREAS, the City, Monterey County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), the Officer of Emergency Services (OES), and other County partners have been working successfully and diligently to implement CDC guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the City needs to take extraordinary measures and requires additional tools and resources to protect the public health given the current state of the epidemic and the need for a sustained response; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, enacted the City's Emergency Response Plan and opened the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) so that all City departments are prepared and positioned to assist with the ongoing and developing threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency and immediate action is necessary for the protection of persons and property within the city and to mitigate potential for extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the city caused by this epidemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, PROCLAIMED, AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A local emergency, as defined in Salinas Municipal Code section 11A-2 and Government Code section 8558(c), now exists in the city of Salinas.
2. During the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the City Manager or his designee shall be those prescribed by State law and the ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans and policies of the City of Salinas in order to mitigate the effects of the local emergency.
3. Ray Corpuz, or his designee, is hereby designated and authorized, in addition to this duties and responsibilities as the Director of Emergency Services as outlined in Salinas Municipal Code section 11A-6, as the authorized representative for public and individual assistance of the City of Salinas for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available state and federal assistance.
4. All City officers and employees are ordered to take all steps requested by the City Manager to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent or alleviate illness or death due to the virus and to take all steps requested by the City Manager to qualify the City for reimbursement from the

State (CalOES) or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and for other state and federal relief as may be available to reimburse the City for the expenses it incurs in addressing this emergency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

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Joe Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk