



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: March 10, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Steve Monaghan – IGS-Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution Declaring both a Local Emergency and Local Health Emergency in Nevada County due to the potential introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Nevada.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: The initial response actions will be from the General Fund and will depending on scale be supplemented by the State/Federal Government.

BACKGROUND:

The Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in almost 70 locations internationally, including in 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”).

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

In the United States there are cases of COVID-19 being imported by travelers. Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 was first reported among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan, China. During the week of February 23, 2020, the CDC reported community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 in California, both in Oregon and Washington. Community spread in Washington resulted in the first COVID-19 death in the United States, as well as the first reported case of COVID-19 in a health care worker, and the first potential outbreak in a long-term care facility.

In California, as of March 4, 2020, there were 53 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state. Two of these cases were detected in neighboring Placer County, with one of these resulting in the first California Coronavirus-related death. In Nevada County, approximately 27% of our population is age 65 years or over, and being elderly and/or having other illnesses greatly increases the risk of dying from

COVID-19.

On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California Proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to the current and potential impacts caused by the COVID-19 and to combat the spread of COVID-19 broadly.

Two emergency declarations are before this Board for confirmation and ratification. On March 4, 2020, the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Nevada proclaimed a Local Emergency, which to remain in effect must be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days. On March 5, 2020, the Nevada County Health Officer Declared a Local Health Emergency, which must be ratified by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days.

The declarations of Local Emergency and Local Health Emergency will enable Nevada County to more effectively respond to the potential introduction of COVID-19, seek and utilize mutual aid, obtain state and federal funds (if available), and ensure that the County's resources and public health professionals, as well as the community at large, have all the necessary tools at their disposal to promote the health and well-being of our community.

Further, pursuant to the Local Emergency declaration, it is requested that the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Nevada be designated as the authorized representative of the County of Nevada for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available State and Federal assistance, and that the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services, or his designee, and the emergency organization of the County, be those prescribed by state law, local ordinance and resolutions of this County approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Finally, it is requested that certified copies of these two resolutions be immediately forwarded to the Governor of California, with requests that the Governor proclaim both a State and Local Emergency due to the spread of COVID-19, that the Governor include the County of Nevada in any emergency declaration that may be issued by the President of the United States, and that the State of California waive regulations that may hinder local virus mitigation efforts within the confines of the County of Nevada during the local emergency.

Today's recommended actions will provide the County additional powers to coordinate local efforts and identify resources that may be necessary to fully address the COVID-19 response in the event of its introduction in Nevada County.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Steve Monaghan