

## **PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, California Government Code section 8630 and County of Del Norte Code section 2.60.60, empower the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when Del Norte County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Del Norte Code of Ordinances, 2.60.60 empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence of a Local Emergency when the County of Del Norte Board of Supervisors is not in session, and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Emergency Services finds that at the time of this proclamation the County of Del Norte Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has confirmed cases of individuals who have a severe acute respiratory illness (COVID-19) caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (SARS CoV2) which causes infectious disease and was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. As of March 17, 2020, the World Health Organization has reported approximately 184,976 confirmed cases worldwide, including 7,529 deaths, across 159 countries, areas or territories worldwide. Within the United States, there currently exists 4,226 confirmed cases including 75 deaths in 53 states, districts and territories. The number of confirmed cases continues to escalate dramatically over a short period of time; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a Public Health Emergency for the United States to aid the nation's health care community in responding to COVID-19; on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency for California in response to the global COVID-19 outbreak; on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; on March 13, President Donald Trump declared COVID-19 a National Emergency; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the virus presents a serious public health threat; and

**WHEREAS**, the potential of COVID-19 cases in Del Norte County is an imminent threat; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's Public Health Officer has found that conditions of peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen; and although there has not yet been any dramatic change in the immediate health of our community, the declaration of Local Health Emergency is warranted to help ensure adequate capacity to address the community transmission phase of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, once community transmission begins within Del Norte County, it will undoubtedly be accompanied by increased demands on Del Norte Health and Human Services Public Health Department and Office of Emergency Services, including critical public infrastructure and services, and which will require the provision of additional public safety and emergency services; and

**WHEREAS**, the imminent threat posed by aforesaid conditions warrant and necessitate the proclamation of a Local Emergency to enable the County of Del Norte and other local government entities to adequately plan, prepare and preposition resources to be able to effectively respond to the threat posed by COVID-19, and to warn Del Norte County residents and visitors of the threat posed by COVID-19 and to enable them sufficient time to plan and prepare; now, therefore,

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**I, Jay Sarina, Director of Emergency Services for the County of Del Norte**, do proclaim a Local Emergency shall be deemed to exist throughout Del Norte County as prescribed by state law, ordinances, and resolutions of this county; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that during the existence of said Local Emergency, the powers, functions and duties of the Director of Emergency Services and his or her designee(s) shall be those prescribed by state law and the ordinances, resolutions, and approved plan of the County of Del Norte in order to mitigate the effects of said Local Emergency; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that said Local Emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist for the next seven (7) days, and hereafter by ratification of the County of Del Norte Board of Supervisors, until its termination is proclaimed by the County of Del Norte Board of Supervisors; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** all County officers and employees take all steps requested by the Public Health Officer and/or the Director of Emergency Services to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent or alleviate illness or death due to the virus; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** all County officers and employees take all steps requested by the Public Health Officer and/or the Director of Emergency Services to qualify the County for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and for other state and federal relief as may be available to reimburse the County for the expenses it incurs in addressing this emergency; and

**IT IS REQUESTED** that the Governor of the State of California include the County of Del Norte in the emergency declaration by the State; ensure the County of Del Norte is included in the emergency declaration issued by the President of the United States of America; waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; and make available California Disaster Assistance Act and State Private Nonprofit Organizations Assistance Program funding.

This proclamation shall be ratified by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days.

Dated: March 17, 2020

  
Jay Sarina, County Administrative Officer