

PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS AND FIRES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8630 and section 4-2.01 *et seq.* of the Pacifica Municipal Code empower the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City Council is not in session, subject to confirmation by the City Council at the earliest possible time; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Pacifica; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, the San Mateo County Health Officer declared a Local Health Emergency pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080 based on the imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 4, 2020, as part of the State of California's response to address the global COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the State prepare for broader spread of COVID-19 following one official COVID-19 death; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the City Manager in his capacity as Director of Emergency Services, issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the global pandemic resulting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Proclamation of Local Emergency was ratified by the City Council through Resolution No. 18-2020; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Health Officer has issued a number of Health Orders to protect the health and safety of people since declaring a Local Health Emergency, including Health Order No. c19-11 superseding previous Shelter-in-Place Orders and aligning the County with the State Shelter Order/Resilience Roadmap and limiting public and private gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the State Public Health Officer and Director has also issued a number of Health Orders since the State declared a State of Emergency, including a Statewide Public Health Officer Order dated July 13, 2020 regarding certain events and activities and continuing to limit gatherings and requiring social distancing and face coverings; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, the San Mateo County Health Officer declared a Local Health Emergency pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080 based on the imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 4, 2020, as part of the State of California's response to address the global COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency

actions already underway across multiple State agencies and departments, and help the State prepare for broader spread of COVID-19 following one official COVID-19 death; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the City Manager in his capacity as Director of Emergency Services, issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the global pandemic resulting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Proclamation of Local Emergency was ratified by the City Council through Resolution No. 18-2020; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Health Officer has issued a number of Health Orders to protect the health and safety of people since declaring a Local Health Emergency, including Health Order No. c19-11 superseding previous Shelter-in-Place Orders and aligning the County with the State Shelter Order/Resilience Roadmap and limiting public and private gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the State Public Health Officer and Director has also issued a number of Health Orders since the State declared a State of Emergency, including a Statewide Public Health Officer Order dated July 13, 2020 regarding certain events and activities and continuing to limit gatherings and requiring social distancing and face coverings; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to feel the effects of COVID-19 and the period of Local Emergency has been extended due to the ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the City is experiencing another type of crisis that is happening State-wide due to extreme weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, beginning on August 14, 2020, the State of California began experiencing an extreme heat event, causing record-breaking temperatures and Red Flag Warnings throughout California; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to the “Extreme Heat Event”; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the fire conditions being exacerbated by extreme temperatures, the weather event has resulted in widespread lightning strikes, sparking fires throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, there are currently hundreds of fires actively burning during these extreme weather conditions throughout California, which have collectively burned tens of thousands of acres; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the fires burning statewide; and

WHEREAS, extremely high temperatures and dry conditions are expected to continue, which will further increase the spread of fires State-wide and likely result in additional wildfires, further exacerbating the current wildfire situation in California; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the high temperatures, the San Francisco bay area has also experienced, and they continue to be forecasted in the coming days, significant lightning storms; and

WHEREAS, fires in the southern portion of San Mateo County (collectively referred to as the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires), which appear to have been caused by lightning strikes related to atypical weather patterns, have given rise to conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires have burned approximately 10,000 acres and continue to threaten communities and property in southern San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, within San Mateo County, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (“Cal Fire”) has issued evacuation orders for the communities of Loma Mar and Dear Park, as well as areas in the vicinity of Pescadero Creek County Park and the Butano area; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors issued Proclamation 4292 declaring a Local Emergency due to the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires and the mobilization of local resources and the ability to coordinate interagency response; and

WHEREAS, due to the extreme weather and ongoing fires and ongoing pandemic conditions, it is necessary that the City be able to accelerate procurement of vital supplies, to use mutual aid, immediately address health and safety needs, and to allow for future reimbursement by State and federal governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Pacifica Director of Emergency Services finds that:

- A. As a result of the foregoing Recitals, which are hereby incorporated as findings, I have determined that extreme weather conditions and fires constitute a threat to community health and warrant a proclamation of a Local Health Emergency; and
- B. Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the City caused by the extreme weather conditions that are being experienced including extreme heat and lightning and that the wild fires are ongoing in San Mateo County and threaten to start in new areas due to the extreme weather; and
- C. To compound these threats, the City continues to be in a state of local emergency due to COVID-19, which impact significant City and community operations, including critical public infrastructure and services, and which will require the provision of additional public safety and emergency services; and
- D. As contemplated in the Emergency Service Act contained in Government Code Section 8550 et seq., including Section 8558(c) and as defined in PMC 4-2.02, a local emergency exists because of the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the

City of Pacifica caused by the aforesaid conditions and warrant and necessitate the proclamation of a Local Emergency to enable the City of Pacifica and other local government entities to adequately plan, prepare and secure resources to be able to effectively respond to the threat posed by the foregoing conditions and to warn City of Pacifica residents and visitors of the threat posed by the extreme weather and fires and COVID-19 and to enable the City to address these threats; and

- E. At the time of this proclamation, the City Council is not in session (and cannot immediately be called into session).

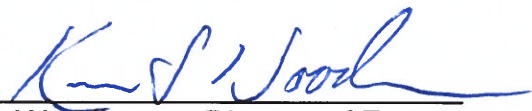
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency exists in accordance with the findings set forth above, commencing on or about the time and date of the signature of the Director of Emergency Services below.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of this local emergency, the powers, functions and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by State law, by ordinances, including PMC section 4-2.01 *et seq.*, and resolutions of this City, and by the City's Continuity of Operations Plan.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this local emergency shall continue to exist until ratified by the City Council. The City Council shall terminate the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

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

Date and time: 8/4/2020, 5:00 p.m.

By: 
Kevin Woodhouse, Director of Emergency Services

ATTEST:


Sarah Coffey, City Clerk