RESOLUTION NO. 1974

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCOTTS VALLEY
DECLARING A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND NAMING THE CITY MANAGER THE
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to be a very serious public health threat with outcomes ranging from mild sickness to severe illness and death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is easily transmissible from person to person and has spread globally to over 118 countries, infected more than 125,000, and killed more than 4,000 individuals as of March 11, 2020, per the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidance to local and State health departments, including the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency, Public Health Division, concerning risk assessment and public health management of persons with potential exposure to COVID-19. These guidelines require the Health Services Agency to make extraordinary efforts to monitor ongoing communicable disease threats and prepare for management of individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the State of California due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 101080, the County of Santa Cruz local Health Officer is authorized to declare a local health emergency for the COVID-19 outbreak in the Health Officer’s jurisdiction, or any part thereof, if the Health Officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of a contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, non-communicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz declared a local health emergency and made the following findings:

1. A severe acute respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, People’s Republic of China ("China"), in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") considers the virus to be a very serious public health threat, based on current information. In part, the virus is considered a serious public health threat because much is unknown. The exact modes of transmission, the factors facilitating human-to-human transmission, the extent of asymptomatic viral shedding, the groups most at risk of serious illness, the attack
rate, and the case fatality rate all remain active areas of investigation, but are poorly characterized at this time. The best information to date suggests that the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death. The CDC believes at this time that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. Although the majority of individuals infected with COVID-19 recover from the disease without special treatment, approximately 1 in 6 may become seriously ill.

2. The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time and have spread worldwide. To date, there are over 90,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 3,000 deaths from COVID-19. Cases of COVID-19, though concentrated in China, have been reported on every continent except Antarctica. Transmission from asymptomatic individuals has been documented. Case numbers in the United States are increasing, including eight deaths. Community spread is occurring. Our neighboring county of Santa Clara is one of two areas of COVID-19 outbreak in the United States. Many residents of Santa Cruz County work in Santa Clara County and travel to and from that County on a daily basis. The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak to be a global health emergency. The U.S. Department of Public Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency for the United States.

3. Actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. The CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to China and Iran, and the U.S. Department of State advises Americans not to travel to either of those countries. Effective February 2, 2020, all travelers returning to the United States who have been in Hubei province within the last 14 days are being quarantined; those returning from other provinces in China are being asked to self quarantine with monitoring and follow up by local health departments. In addition, hundreds of passengers from the Diamond Princess Cruise ship have been flown to Travis Air Force Base for mandatory quarantine, with confirmed cases transferred to Bay Area hospitals.

4. Although there have been no confirmed cases in Santa Cruz County, public health staff have been busy monitoring case contacts and returning travelers. The Public Health Division has been working diligently with federal, state, regional and local partners to ensure our readiness to respond to COVID-19. The Health Services Agency is working with other County departments as well as community partners to prepare for COVID-19 in Santa Cruz County.

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz does hereby find that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Cruz;

WHEREAS, since the Health Officer of Santa Cruz County declared a local health emergency, 13 cases have been confirmed in Santa Cruz County; and
WHEREAS, in order for the City of Scotts Valley local health emergency to remain in effect, it must be ratified by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the Scotts Valley City Council; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors ratified the order of the Health Officer of Santa Cruz County and declared a local health emergency throughout the County of Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Scotts Valley Municipal Code Chapter 2.48, the City has established a Civil Defense and Disasters Council to provide for the preparation and carrying out of plans for the protection of persons and property within the City in the event of a disaster; and

WHEREAS, the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes a disaster under Chapter 2.48; and

WHEREAS, the City Council needs to name a Director of Civil Defense and Disaster to direct the day to day operations during an emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Scotts Valley hereby declares that as of March 15th, 2020, a local health emergency exists in the City of Scotts Valley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby designated the Director of Civil Defense and Disaster and authorized to perform all duties outlined in Sections 2.48.050 and 2.48.060 of the Scotts Valley Municipal Code.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Scotts Valley at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of March, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: DILLES, JOHNSON, LIND, TIMM
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: REED
ABSTAIN: NONE

Approved:

Randy Johnson, Mayor

Attest:

Tracy Ferrara, City Clerk