

**PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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 8630 of the Government Code empowers the City Council, or an official designated by local ordinance, to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the City is affected by or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, Section 8.20.070A of the Merced Municipal Code empowers the Director of Emergency Services (City Manager) to proclaim a local emergency if the City Council is not in session and requires that the City Council shall take action to ratify the proclamation within seven (7) days thereafter; and

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (referred to as COVID-19), causes infectious disease and was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2020, the CDC activated its Emergency Response System to provide ongoing support for the response to COVID-19 across the country; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2020, the California Department of Public Health activated its Medical and Health Coordination Center and on March 2, 2020, the Office of Emergency Services activated the State Operations Center to support and guide state and local actions to preserve public health; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the California Governor declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Merced County Interim Health Officer declared that the imminent introduction of COVID-19 to Merced County is a threat to public health within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 101080 and declared a local health emergency in Merced County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Merced will require access to services, personnel, equipment, facilities and other resources from the federal government, state, local and other agencies, including resources that may not be currently available, to prepare for and respond to cases and control the spread of the virus within Merced's population and communities; and

WHEREAS, the health and welfare of the citizens of the City as well as that of City employees is of paramount importance to the Mayor, City Council and City Administration; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation enables the City to more effectively respond to an imminent outbreak, seek and utilize mutual aid, ensure that the City's employees, public health professionals, and providers have all necessary personal protective equipment to provide quality care in keeping the City safe, and desire to accommodate critical staffing needs to ensure the continuity of essential government services and maintain the access of these services at all City locations; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency and immediate action is necessary to mitigate potential interruption of public services.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS PROCLAIMED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A local emergency, as defined in Government Section 8558 and Merced Municipal Code Chapter 8.20, now exists throughout the City of Merced.

2. During the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of the City of Merced shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of the City of Merced; and that this emergency proclamation shall expire seven (7) days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the City Council of Merced, California, County of Merced.

