PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8630 and Chapter 2.46 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code authorize the Director of Emergency Services ("Director") of the County of San Mateo ("County") to proclaim a local emergency when the County is threatened by conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the County that are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat, and the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Director hereby finds the following:

Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the County due to the following:

A novel coronavirus (named "COVID-19" by the World Health Organization) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has stated that COVID-19 is a serious public health threat, based on current information. Cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed in the United States, primarily in individuals who have traveled to other countries, but there have been cases identified of "community spread" of COVID-19 involving individuals who have not traveled overseas and who have no known connections to overseas travel.

The exact modes of transmission of COVID-19, 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. 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.

The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time. As of March 1, 2020, the World Health Organization has reported 87,137 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 79,968 cases in China and the remaining 7,169 cases in 58 other countries. There have been 2,873 deaths in China due to COVID-19, and another 104 deaths in other countries.

According to the CDC, as of March 2, 2020, there have been 43 cases of COVID 19 detected, tested and confirmed in the United States (not including 48 individuals who returned to the United States from overseas on State Department-chartered flights).

Actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the United States.

Cases of COVID-19 have now been identified in San Mateo County, as well as in other Bay Area counties. The County has a population of over 725,000 residents, many of

whom travel frequently for business or personal reasons and have international linkages. Other Bay Area counties, including the County of Santa Clara, the County of Alameda, the County of Solano, and the City and County of San Francisco, have made declarations of local emergency and declarations of local health emergency. Moreover, media accounts report that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is preparing for the possibility that the President may make an emergency declaration at the federal level related to COVID-19.

The Health Officer of the County of San Mateo has determined that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in San Mateo County, and has declared a Local Health Emergency as a result.

These conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is not in session, and cannot immediately be called into session; and

WHEREAS, during a local emergency, the Director of Emergency Services or other individual authorized to serve in that capacity under Chapter 2.46 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code is empowered by that chapter of the Ordinance Code to issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency; provided, however, that such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest possible time by the Board of Supervisors;

NOW THEREFORE, the Director of Emergency Services hereby takes the following actions:

1. Proclaims that a local emergency, as defined in Government Code section 8558 and Chapter 2.46 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, now exists within the County; and

2. Requests that the Governor of the State of California proclaim a State of Emergency for the County of San Mateo and request a federal declaration to provide assistance including, but not limited to, California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA), Federal Individual Assistance Act, and U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration, to assist with losses and emergency repairs required by the County and affected cities and special districts within the County.

The local emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

Date: 3/3/2020
Time: 9:50 AM

By: Michael Callagy
County Manager/Director of Emergency Services