RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-144

MEETING: March 17, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chevon Kothari, Health and Human Services Director

RE: COVID-19 Health Emergency Declaration

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Adopt a Resolution Ratifying the Declaration of a COVID-19 Local Public Health Emergency in Mariposa County. On March 13, 2020, Mariposa County Public Health Officer, Dr. Eric Sergienko declared a local public health emergency in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. At this time, we are asking the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to adopt a Resolution ratifying this order and declaring a Local Health Emergency.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
Many County Health Officers and Board of Supervisors are declaring local health emergencies in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Although there have been no cases of community transmission in Mariposa County to date, due to the proximity of cases in California and the Central Valley it is prudent to declare a local health emergency at this time. This declaration will allow the Health Officer and his designees to put appropriate measures in place to mitigate the spread of and impacts of COVID-19 on Mariposa County residents in an effort to maintain health and safety to the greatest extent possible.

See attached resolution for further details.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
The Board can choose not to approve the local public health emergency, limiting the ability of the County to respond effectively to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

ATTACHMENTS:
COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Proclamation for BoS Item (DOCX)
Declaration of Local Health Emergency - COVID-19, 13Mar2020 (PDF)
Final Signed__ Health Officer Order for Large Scale Events and Mass Gatherings 3.13.20_BoS Attachment(PDF)
Resolution - Action Requested 2020-144

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-144

RESOLUTION RATIFYING DECLARATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS the California Health and Safety Code, Division 101, Part 3, Chapter 2, commencing with Section 101075 confers upon the local health officer of the political subdivisions of this state emergency powers necessary to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code states that the local health officer may declare a local health emergency in the jurisdiction or any area thereof affected where there exists an imminent threat to public health; and

WHEREAS Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code empowers the local health officer to declare the existence of the a local health emergency when the county or any area of the county is affected or likely to be affected by such a public health threat while the Board of Supervisors is not in session, which shall expire if not ratified by the Board of Supervisors within seven days and is subject to reaffirmation every 14 days thereafter until such local health emergency is terminated; and

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the Health Officer of the County of Mariposa declared a local Health Emergency due to a determination that COVID-19 may pose a serious threat to Mariposa County residents; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced on February 25, 2020 that community spread of COVID-19 is likely to occur in the United States; and

WHEREAS based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statements and the California Department of Public Health guidance, there is an ongoing risk and likelihood of COVID-19 positive patients being identified in Mariposa County; and

WHEREAS as of March 12, 2020, across the globe, there are more than 127,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, tragically resulting in more than 4,500 deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS as of March 12, 2020, there are 1,323 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including 198 in California, and more than 11,100 Californians across 49 counties are in home monitoring based on possible travel-based exposure to the virus, and officials expect the number of cases in California, the United States, and worldwide to increase; and

WHEREAS based on the foregoing, there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Mariposa and a threat to the public health of the County residents; and

WHEREAS experts anticipate that while a high percentage of individuals affected by COVID-19 will experience mild flu-like symptoms, some will have more serious symptoms and require hospitalization, particularly individuals who are elderly or already have underlying chronic health conditions; and
WHEREAS it is imperative to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases in the County, to implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization; and

WHEREAS if COVID-19 spreads in the County at a rate comparable to the rate of spread in other areas, the number of persons requiring medical care may exceed locally available resources, and controlling outbreaks minimizes the risk to the public, maintains the health and safety of the people of the County, and limits the spread of infection in its communities and within the healthcare delivery system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors, County of Mariposa, State of California, hereby ratifies that the existence of a local health emergency initially proclaimed by the Public Health Officer on March 13, 2020 regarding COVID-19, with said conditions of extreme peril to the safety of community residents existing continuously since that time, with such conditions expected to continue until such a time as the emergency is proclaimed terminated by the Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all powers and authorities in the local health declaration of March 13, 2020 are hereby ratified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions and duties of the County Health Officer shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinance, resolution or other actions of this county approved by the Board of Supervisors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, a political subdivision of the State of California, this 17th day of March 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, JONES, LONG, CANN, MENETREY
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE

KEVIN CANN, CHAIR
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

RENE LaROCHE
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

STEVEN W. DAHLEM
County Counsel