PROCLAMATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF MARIPOSA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATE AND/OR FEDERAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST WITH RECOVERY EFFORTS

WHEREAS, Section 8630 of the California Government Code and Chapter 2.80 of the Mariposa County Code empower the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of local emergency when said County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the County Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services hereby finds that 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”) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, 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 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. 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, 2020, there are over 175,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and nearly 9000 deaths from COVID-19. Cases of COVID-19, have been reported in 157 countries. Transmission from an asymptomatic individual has been documented. The World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 as a pandemic.

- The United States Government has limited travel from both Europe and China in order to limit the importation of disease.

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020, there are 4,180 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States with 93 deaths, including 392 cases of COVID-19 in California, resulting in 5 deaths. Officials expect the number of cases in California, the United States and worldwide to increase; and
WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of the County of Mariposa has determined that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health of the introduction of COVID-19 in Mariposa County, and has declared a Local Health Emergency as a result; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidance to local and State health departments, including Mariposa County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), concerning risk assessment and public health management of persons with potential exposure to COVID-19. These guidelines require HHSA 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, HHSA has been working diligently with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the CDC to implement guidelines for monitoring travelers, testing individuals who meet the criteria and who have symptoms and to provide current information to healthcare providers, schools, businesses and the general population.

WHEREAS, HHSA and other County departments have been working successfully and diligently to implement CDC guidelines, but now require additional tools and resources to protect the public health given the current state of the epidemic and the need for a sustained response; and

WHEREAS, the Director of HHSA has determined that HHSA cannot comply with the CDC's guidance without immediate action beyond the County's ordinary response capabilities, including directing personnel and resources from other County departments to assist with the ongoing and developing threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

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 Mariposa County Code section 2.80 is empowered by Mariposa County Code section 2.80.070 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, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout Mariposa County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this County shall be those prescribed by state law and by the ordinances and resolutions of the County of Mariposa; and that the emergency proclamation shall expire seven (7) days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa.

Dated 3/17/2020

By:
Doug Binnewies
Director of Emergency Services

ATTEST:
René LaRoche
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Steven W. Dahlem
County Counsel