



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Health and Human Services · (209) 966-2000



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-81**

MEETING: February 23, 2021  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Shannon Gadd, Health and Human Services Agency Director  
RE: Continue a Shelter Crisis Local Emergency in Mariposa County

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Resolution Continuing a Shelter Crisis Local Emergency in Mariposa County.

California Government Code 8698, 8698.1 and 8698.2 allows for the governing body of a city or county to declare a shelter crisis. A shelter crisis declaration relaxes standards for building occupancy, limits liability and provides a legal basis for the use of certain facilities designated by the County as a shelter for the duration of the crisis.

In order to declare the shelter crisis, the County made findings at a public meeting and adopted Resolution 18-518 that (1) a significant number of persons within the county's jurisdiction are without the ability to obtain shelter; and (2) the situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons.

### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

On November 5, 2018, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 18-518 declaring the existence of a Shelter Crisis Local Emergency in Mariposa County to allow Mariposa County to proceed with temporary homeless shelter solutions to meet the needs of our homeless community members.

Recognizing the prevalence of homelessness in California and the health and safety risks facing homeless persons, California law authorizes counties to declare a "shelter crisis" and avail themselves to attendant protections and powers. Specifically, upon declaring a "shelter crisis":

- A county may allow persons unable to obtain housing to occupy designated public facilities during the duration of the emergency (public facilities include parks, schools, and vacant or underutilized facilities which are owned, operated, leased, or maintained by the county);
- A county is immune from liability for ordinary negligence in the provision of emergency housing for all conditions, acts, or omissions directly related to, and which would not occur but for, the provision of emergency housing; and

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- The provisions of any state or local law or regulation prescribing standards of housing, health, and safety are suspended to the extent that strict compliance would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the crisis.

If the County desires to construct and operate an emergency homeless shelter, it is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors first declare a “shelter crisis” in order to avail itself of the associated powers and liability protections.

### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not continue the local emergency and the County may not be eligible for possible State or Federal assistance, or proceed with temporary homeless shelter solutions.

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey