



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 01, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

PREPARER: Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

DATE: June 24, 2020

TITLE: **Declare a Continuation of the Local Emergency Related to the Coronavirus Pandemic.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council continue the Local Emergency related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and direct staff to continue to take actions as necessary to respond to the public health and safety emergency.

INTRODUCTION:

California Government Code section 8630 and Title II, Chapter 6, Emergency Operations and Functions, of the City of Arcata Municipal Code, sets forth the procedures to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when circumstances described therein exist. On April 1, 2020, the City Council adopted a resolution confirming the existence of a local emergency caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Arcata Municipal Code Title II, Chapter 6, requires the City Council to review and affirm the continuation of the Emergency proclamation every 14 days after the initial declaration.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Humboldt County Health Officer's and the California Governor's Shelter in Place Order is still in place. Local testing efforts have been steadily increasing and while Humboldt County has experienced several days with no new reported cases there is still a significant threat to our community from the emergency.

The City may require additional assistance, and a formal declaration of emergency allows additional resources to flow to the City in a timely fashion. The declaration of emergency also allows needed flexibility in staffing decisions and steps needed to continue to deliver essential services and to protect the City's residents. The declaration enables the City to more effectively respond to the outbreak, and potentially obtain reimbursement for the response.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

This action is consistent with Arcata Municipal Code Title II, Chapter 6.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

While there will be costs associated with City's emergency response to COVID-19, continuation of the proclamation of a Local Emergency by the City Council has no direct cost impact. However, it may enable potential external sources for reimbursement to costs associated with the City's emergency response.