

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION DECLARING LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE §8558(c) AND SCCRTC ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL POLICIES §3.5

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code 101080 authorizes the County of Santa Cruz local health officer to declare a local health emergency for the Coronavirus outbreak in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, as the Health Officer reasonably determined that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of a contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, non-communicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a new executive order further enhancing state and local government's ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic;

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8558(c) authorizes the declaration of a local emergency and defines a local emergency as "the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city caused by [an] . . . epidemic, . . . which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat . . . ;" and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Administrative and Fiscal Policies §3.5, directs RTC to "maintain and implement an Emergency Response Plan," and empowers the Executive Director acting as the RTC's Director of Emergency Services to request that the Commission proclaim the existence or threatened existence of an emergency and the termination thereof; and

WHEREAS, the RTC's local health emergency shall not remain in effect unless it has been ratified by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz has made the following findings:

That a severe acute respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China ("China"), in December 2019. The U.S. 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 health 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, but are poorly characterized at this time. The best information to date suggests that the virus is spread between people primarily

via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death. 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. Although the majority of individuals infected with COVID-19 recover from the disease without special treatment, approximately 1 in 6 may become seriously ill.

That the number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time and spread worldwide. To date, there are over 153,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 5,700 deaths from COVID-19. Cases of COVID-19, though concentrated in China, have been reported on every continent except Antarctica. Transmission from asymptomatic individuals has been documented. Case numbers in the United States are increasing, including many deaths. Community spread is occurring. Our neighboring county of Santa Clara is one of two areas of COVID-19 outbreak in the United States. Many residents of Santa Cruz County work in Santa Clara County and travel to and from that County on a daily basis. The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak to be a global health emergency. The U.S. Department of Public Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency for the United States.

1. That actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. The CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to China and Iran, and the U.S. Department of State advises Americans not to travel to either of those countries. Effective February 2, 2020, all travelers returning to the United States who have been in Hubei province within the last 14 days are being quarantined; those returning from other provinces in China are being asked to self-quarantine with monitoring and follow up by local health departments. In addition, hundreds of passengers from the Diamond Princess Cruise ship have been flown to Travis Air Force Base for mandatory quarantine, with confirmed cases transferred to Bay Area hospitals.

2. That there have been seven (7) confirmed COVID-19 cases in Santa Cruz County and public health staff have been busy monitoring case contacts and returning travelers. The Public Health Division of the Santa Cruz County Public Health Agency has been working diligently with federal, state, regional and local partners to ensure readiness to respond to COVID-19. The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency is working with other Santa Cruz County departments as well as community partners to prepare for COVID-19 in Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidance to local and State health departments, including the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency, Public Health Division, concerning risk assessment and public health management of persons with potential exposure to COVID-19. These guidelines require the Health Services Agency 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, the Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz has determined there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Cruz.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AS FOLLOWS:

1. A local health emergency exists in the RTC's jurisdiction as of March 10th, 2020
2. The Executive Director is directed to act as the RTC's Director of Emergency Services pursuant to Government Code §8558(c).
3. The Administrative Services Officer shall transmit this Resolution to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS

NOES: COMMISSIONERS

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Aurelio Gonzalez, Vice Chair

Guy Preston, Secretary