

RESOLUTION NO. 287

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
HIGH VALLEYS WATER DISTRICT
PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the governing body of the District has the authority to proclaim a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 3100 states that all public employees are declared to be disaster service workers subject to such disaster service activities as may be assigned to them by their superiors or by law, and the District needing to provide potable water to customers is deemed as an essential public service; and

WHEREAS, any actions that the District may take to ensure the continuation of critical services to protect the safety of customers and to provide for immunities that will protect the District for actions taken, as covered under the California Emergency Services Act; and

WHEREAS, working with the County of Riverside, this Resolution authorizes the undertaking of powers and invoking and disseminating emergency orders (e.g., emergency orders, emergency spending authorities, emergency or pre-established contracting, order necessary Personal Protective Equipment, recovery, etc.) and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life, property, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution establishes that an emergency exists, and that if mutual aid of in-county resources are needed to assist the District, as covered under the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement and any local agreements to provide mutual aid should be sufficient to establish, and that the Emergency Services Act applies; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution establishes that an emergency exists, and if out-of-county assistance is needed, requests for mutual aid should follow procedures set forth by the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), including obtaining mission numbers through the County of Riverside Emergency Management Department from CalOES for responding agencies. This is particularly important for possible reimbursement of extraordinary expenses in the event of a proclaimed "State of Emergency" or in the event of a presidential declaration of disaster when state or federal disaster relief funds become available; and

WHEREAS, conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the health and safety of persons and property have arisen both internationally and within the United States as a result of the introduction of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), a novel communicable disease which led to California Governor Gavin Newsom, to proclaim a State of Emergency for California on March 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, currently COVID-19 has spread globally to more than 70 countries, infecting more than 180,000 persons and causing more than 7,100 fatalities worldwide. Due to the expanding list of countries with widespread transmission of COVID-19, and increasing travel alerts and warnings for countries experiencing sustained or uncontrolled community transmission issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 has created conditions that are likely to be beyond the control of local resources and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat this virus; and

WHEREAS, a Local Health Emergency was proclaimed by the County of Riverside Public Health Officer on March 8, 2020, and ratified by the Board of Supervisors on March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a Local Emergency was proclaimed by the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors on March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the CDC confirmed person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in the United States, raising the possibility of community transmission occurring in the general public. This has resulted in a Federal Declaration of National Emergency, as declared by President Donald Trump on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the District's ability to mobilize local resources, coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, use mutual aid, and seek future reimbursement by State and Federal governments will be critical to successfully responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the District proclaim the existence of a local emergency; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the District hereby proclaims the existence of a local emergency and directs District staff to take the necessary steps for the protection of life, health and safety.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the District shall be those prescribed by state law and by ordinances and resolutions of the District Board.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all departments of the District shall review and revise their department emergency and contingency plans to address the risks COVID-19 poses to their critical functions in coordination with the District's Emergency Management Department/Manager.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all District departments shall track costs for staffing, supplies, and equipment related to COVID-19 preparation and prevention and forward that information to the District's finance department; and complete an Initial Damage Estimate (IDE) Category B, and forward that information to the Riverside County Emergency Management Department (EMD) on a daily basis.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the District's internal departments shall coordinate District-wide planning, preparedness and response efforts regarding COVID-19 with the Riverside County EMD.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately and that widespread publicity and notice shall be given said Resolution through the most feasible and adequate means of disseminating such notice throughout the District.

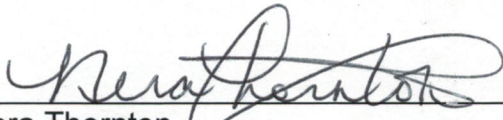
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Riverside County EMD to be forwarded to the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

ADOPTED this 31st day of March, 2020



Ernest Wright
President of the High Valleys Water District, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Nera Thornton
Recording Secretary of the High Valleys Water District, Board of Directors

