

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2018-172

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA EXTENDING THE PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO FIRES

WHEREAS, beginning in the early hours of October 9, 2017, and for many days following, the City of Santa Rosa suffered devastating wildfires and significant loss of life and property; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-24.040 of the Santa Rosa City Code designates the City Manager as the Director of Emergency Services; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-24.050 of the Santa Rosa City Code empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the City Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2017, at 3:17 a.m., the City Manager, in his capacity as Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed the existence of local emergency in the City of Santa Rosa; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2017, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency for Sonoma and other counties; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2017, President Donald J. Trump declared the existence of a major disaster in the State of California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by wildfires; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2017 the Council adopted Resolution No. RES-2017-201 ratifying the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services; and

WHEREAS, the wildfires were the most devastating in the history of the State of California, causing the death of at least 24 people within Sonoma County, destroying approximately 3000 residences and numerous businesses within the City, displacing thousands of households, and causing significant damage to public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the wildfires left a large debris field in their wake, raising significant environmental and public health and safety concerns due to the widespread presence of hazardous materials and the enormous scope of the incident; and

WHEREAS, as long as fire debris remains, it poses safety hazards to the public and a continuing threat of contamination to adjoining properties, to waterways, and to public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the wildfires ravaged hillsides leaving large swaths without adequate vegetation, creating threats of erosion and landslides; and

WHEREAS, the official start of the first rainy season after the wildfires was November 1, 2017, and the winter and spring storms that followed impacted the fire-burned areas, revealing further damage and posing additional threats to the integrity of the City's infrastructure, including public roads and water, stormwater and sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, the City will soon face another rainy season, posing further threats to damaged infrastructure and the surrounding natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the wildfires have dramatically exacerbated the City's pre-existing housing shortage, devastating several large neighborhoods and three mobile home parks, leaving thousands of residents to find alternative housing; and

WHEREAS, due to the severity and extent of the wildfire damage and destruction and the upheaval it has caused in our community, there is an ongoing and imminent threat to the public health, safety and welfare that warrant the continuation of the proclamation of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8630 requires that the Council review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 30 days until the governing body terminates the local emergency; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2017, by Resolution RES-2017-226, Council extended the proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to fires; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2017, by Resolution RES-2017-247, Council extended the proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to fires; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2018, by Resolution RES-2018-008, Council extended the proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to fires; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2018, by Resolution RES-2018-018, Council extended the proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to fires; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2018, by Resolution RES-2018-037, Council extended the proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to fires; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2018, by Resolution RES-2018-050, Council extended the proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to fires; and

