

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2020-083

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA EXTENDING THE PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO 2019 KINCADE FIRE

WHEREAS, the Kincade wildfire was ignited on October 23, 2019, during a high wind event in the area of the Geysers, northeast of Geyserville in Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, the fire spread broadly over the course of several days, ultimately encompassing 77,758 acres (approximately 120 square miles), threatening the communities of Geyserville, Healdsburg, Windsor and northeast Santa Rosa, triggering the evacuation of 180,000 residents across central Sonoma County; and engaging statewide fire-fighting resources until two weeks later, on November 6, 2019, when the fire was finally fully contained; and

WHEREAS, beginning on October 27, 2019, the City recognized that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property existed within the City of Santa Rosa, caused by (1) electric utility Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) suspension of the provision of electricity to a significant portion of the City due to high wind speeds, low humidity, and high temperature conditions that increase the risk of wildfire to the City; and (2) the ignition of the Kincade wildfire, the severe winds that continued to spread that fire, and the threat of possible additional fires due to severe weather and vegetation conditions; and

WHEREAS, those events impacted many tens of thousands of residents within the City and the immediately surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the de-energization and the Kincade fire significantly impacted the health and safety of City residents, the security of critical public services and infrastructure, and the welfare of community businesses; and

WHEREAS, those events required the provision of additional public safety and emergency services notwithstanding impaired response capability caused by the electric outages; and

WHEREAS, although the Kincade fire has long been extinguished and electric service has been restored, the impacts of the events still continue to place the City in conditions of disaster and at extreme risk; and

WHEREAS, on-going impacts to City from the Kincade fire include, but are not limited to, damage and disruption to the City's wastewater treatment program and facilities and the resulting impacts to storage facilities, the implications of which are not yet fully known, and the on-going threats to the City's stormwater system from hillsides stripped of vegetation; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-24.04 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 27, 2019, 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, Section 2-24.050 states that the City Council shall take action to ratify the proclamation of the Director of Emergency Services within seven days thereafter or the proclamation shall have no further force or effect; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Santa Rosa ratified the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services, dated October 27, 2019, by Resolution RES-2019-157 on November 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8630 requires that the Council review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 60 days until the governing body terminates the local emergency; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2019 (RES-2019-191), February 11, 2020 (RES-2020-018), and April 7, 2020 (RES-2020-055), Council extended the proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to the Kincadee fire.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to the authority set forth in California Government Code sections 8630 thru 8634, and Section 2-24.050 of the City Code, the Council hereby declares that the proclamation of a state of local emergency within the City of Santa Rosa remains in full force and effect without interruption in accordance with Resolution No. RES-2019-157.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 2nd day of June, 2020.

AYES: (7) Mayor Schwedhelm, Vice Mayor Fleming, Council Members Dowd, Olivares, Rogers, Sawyer, Tibbetts

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney