

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2019-187

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA EXTENDING THE PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO 2017 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, at the time, 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 alone, 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, although the debris from damaged and destroyed structures has largely been removed at this time, damaged vegetation remains, including thousands of dead and dying trees at risk of collapse, many of which pose significant threats to the public safety and the security of standing structures and newly rebuilt homes and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the wildfires ravaged hillsides leaving large swaths without adequate vegetation, creating threats of erosion and landslides, which threats have still not yet abated; and

WHEREAS, since the wildfires, numerous winter and spring storms have impacted the fire-burned areas, revealing further damage and posing additional threats to the integrity of the City’s infrastructure, including potential harm to public roads and water, stormwater and sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the wildfires 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, the rebuilding of residential units is well underway, yet still far from completion, leaving many in our community still struggling to find and maintain adequate 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 at this time; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8630, as amended effective January 1, 2019, 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 November 30, 2017 (RES-2017-226), December 12, 2017 (RES-2017-247), January 9, 2018 (RES-2018-008), February 6, 2018 (RES-2018-018), March 6, 2018 (RES-2018-037), April 3, 2018 (RES-2018-050), May 1, 2018 (RES-2018-062), May 22, 2018 (RES-2018-075), June 19, 2018 (RES-2018-090), July 10, 2018 (RES-2018-115), August 7, 2018 (RES-2018-135), September 4, 2018 (RES-2018-156), October 2, 2018 (RES-2018-172), October 30, 2018 (RES-2018-195), November 27, 2018 (RES-2018-205), December 18, 2018 (RES-2018-226), January 15, 2019 (RES-2019-006), February 12, 2019 (RES-2019-014), March 12, 2019 (RES-2019-025), April 2, 2019 (RES-2019-035), May 28, 2019 (RES-2019-056), July 23, 2019 (RES-2019-116), September 10, 2019 (RES-2019-139), and November 5, 2019 (RES-2019-163) Council extended the proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to fires.

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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-2017-201.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 17th day of December, 2019.

AYES: (6) Mayor Schwedhelm, Vice Mayor Fleming, Council Members Olivares, Rogers, Sawyer, Tibbetts

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ATTEST: _____
Acting City Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney