

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: SUE GALLAGHER, CITY ATTORNEY  
SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
DUE TO THE 2019 KINCADE FIRE

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the City Attorney's Office that the Council, by resolution, terminate the Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency, first proclaimed on October 27, 2019 and extended since that time relating to the 2019 Kincade Fire.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff recommends that Council, by resolution, terminate the City's Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the 2019 Kincade Fire as the conditions that gave rise to the local emergency no longer exist.

BACKGROUND

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 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.

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 electric utility Pacific Gas & Electric's 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 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.

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.

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On November 1, 2019, the Council adopted Resolution RES-2019-157 ratifying the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services on October 27, 2019.

## PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

### **2019 Kincade Fire**

On November 1, 2019, by Resolution RES-2019-157, Council ratified the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services, dated October 27, 2019.

Extensions of the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency were adopted on December 20, 2019 (RES-2019-191), February 11, 2020 (RES-2020-018), April 7, 2020 (RES-2020-055), and June 2, 2020 (RES-2020-083).

## ANALYSIS

Due to the strength of the firefighting forces, the Kincade Fire remained outside the physical jurisdiction of the City. Nevertheless, the Fire impacted tens of thousands of residents in Santa Rosa, requiring extensive evacuations and raising serious health concerns due to smoke, during and in the aftermath of the Fire. In addition, the Fire significantly impacted City facilities and infrastructure, including, but not limited to the City's wastewater treatment program and facilities.

The impacts of the Kincade Fire have now been largely resolved and staff finds that the extraordinary powers and procedures available under the emergency proclamations are no longer necessary. Staff therefore recommends that the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency due to the Kincade Fire be terminated.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

## BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

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NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Resolution RES-2019-157 (2019 Kincade Fire)
- Resolution

CONTACT

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