

MEMORANDUM



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Norma Camacho
Chief Executive
Officer
SUBJECT: Emergency Declaration – COVID-19
DATE: March 13, 2020

The purpose of this memorandum is to formally declare an emergency for the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) as a result of the threat to public services posed by the novel coronavirus – COVID-19. This declaration of emergency is intended to expire in seven (7) days unless ratified by the Santa Clara Valley Water District’s Board of Directors.

Background:

A novel coronavirus (named “COVID-19”) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the virus to be a very serious public health threat with outcomes ranging from mild sickness to severe illness and death. COVID-19 has spread globally to over 85 countries, infected more than 95,000 people, and killed more than 3,000 individuals.¹

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. On January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency. On January 31, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the County of Santa Clara.

On February 2, 2020, a Local Health Officer issued a Declaration of Local Health Emergency for Santa Clara County regarding COVID-19. On February 10, 2020, the County of Santa Clara’s Board of Supervisors ratified this declaration of local emergency. On February 26, 2020, the third case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the County of Santa Clara.

On March 6, 2020, Valley Water activated its Emergency Operations Center in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. On or about March 9, 2020, Valley Water was advised that one of its employees had tested positive for COVID-19. Due to widespread transmission of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County, on March 10, 2020, the Center for Disease Control issued recommendations for community interventions in Santa Clara County. On March 11, 2020, Valley Water issued its Pandemic and Infectious Disease Plan to address planning for and response to a pandemic or infectious disease outbreak.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic. On March 12, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20 proclaiming a state of emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department issued an order imposing a mandatory moratorium on gatherings of more than 100 persons, and a conditional countywide moratorium on gatherings of between 35-100 persons, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Invoking the Stafford Act, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency over the COVID-19 outbreak.

¹ World Health Organization Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 45.

As of March 13, 2020, there are 79 total COVID-19 cases in the County of Santa Clara, 36 of which are hospitalized. To date, there are two deaths in Santa Clara County attributed to COVID-19.

Emergency Declaration

Continuing to perform critical functions and provide critical services is vital to Valley Water's ability to provide water supply and flood protection for the residents of Santa Clara County.

The spread of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Clara give rise to conditions of extreme peril to the safety and health of persons within the county.

The above-referenced conditions are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, and facilities of Valley Water.

The efforts required to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from the increasing spread of COVID-19 have and will continue to impose extraordinary requirements and expenses on Valley Water, requiring potential diversion of resources from day-to-day operations.

For all the foregoing reasons, I have determined that an emergency hereby exists for Valley Water based upon the spread of COVID-19 and its threat to essential public services.



Norma J. Camacho
Chief Executive Officer