

PUBLIC SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENT

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Laura Smith, Mayor

City of Bishop

March 17, 2020

Today I have declared a local state of emergency for the City of Bishop, and we are announcing a major shift in our city's operations as we continue to address the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis. The local emergency is now in effect. Pursuant to State and Federal guidelines, we are taking action on behalf of the health and benefit of the public and residents in Bishop. The proclamation of a local emergency does not signify an increased risk to the residents of Bishop. A proclamation of a local emergency allows the city to provide or receive mutual aid from other jurisdictions and assists in securing available resources, mutual aid, funding, and staffing.

The City of Bishop is taking bold and proactive steps to protect the health and safety of our community. The proclamation should not be considered a reason for increased concern, rather an important step in our city's mission to reduce the risk of exposure. I urge community members to stay informed, follow the directives of public health officials, stay home if you are sick, and continue practicing appropriate social distancing, hand washing and use of disinfectants.

Many city facilities are closed effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 until further notice. The closures are intended to help "flatten the curve" and slow the spread of the outbreak.

Essential city services will continue as usual, including police, fire, water, wastewater, planning, inspection, and permitting services (planning and permitting by telephone, online and/or appointment only).

Starting Tuesday, March 17, many city programs and public meetings will be canceled until further notice. City Hall will be temporarily closed and the public is strongly encouraged to take care of any necessary city business by telephone, email, or through the city's website at: www.cityofbishop.com. The city telephone number is 760-873-5863. The city email address is cityclerk@cityofbishop.com.

We need to take serious actions now to suppress any spread of COVID-19, and that is going to include limiting access to City Hall and temporarily closing public facilities. Beginning immediately, we are transitioning to online and telephone services as much as possible to ensure the safety of the public and our City employees.

The City also will be returning or crediting City program fees or other City fees for canceled activities and events at City facilities or at the schools.

[EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION - March 17, 2020](#)