

**PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF LOCAL
EMERGENCY BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAMATION)
OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO) Resolution No. 2018-0442
CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE)
FACILITIES)

WHEREAS, Section 1-15-1005(a) of the Tulare County Ordinance Code defines “emergency” to include “the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within this County caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, earthquake, or other conditions, ... which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this County, requiring the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat”; and

WHEREAS, Tulare Local Healthcare District encompasses an area of approximately 483 square miles and a population of over 85,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 28, 2017, Tulare Local Healthcare District was unable to continue operating and suspended the operation and licensure of Tulare Regional Medical Center and all other medical and support services, including three Federally Qualified Health Clinics serving rural and disadvantaged areas of Tulare County; and

WHEREAS, prior to its closure, Tulare Regional Medical Center was one of only three General Acute Care Hospitals remaining within Tulare County; and

WHEREAS, all hospitals within Tulare County were operating at or near capacity on a regular basis prior to the closure of Tulare Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Tulare Regional Medical Center saw an average of over 80 patients per day in its Emergency Department prior to suspension of operations, of which approximately 30 patients per day were suffering from critical or acute conditions and approximately 25 per day required hospital admission, and these patients now must be transported to and absorbed by other hospitals within and adjacent to Tulare County; and

WHEREAS, significant impacts on public health and safety have resulted from the closure of Tulare Regional Medical Center, including increased ambulance response and patient transport times, extended emergency department wait times, and decreased access to care for disadvantaged populations, all of which negatively affect healthcare outcomes; and

WHEREAS, inclusive of the loss of Tulare Regional Medical Center, over the last two decades, Tulare County has lost 56% of its total hospital bed capacity. Tulare

County residents already faced difficulties with accessing health care, as the County consistently ranks in the bottom 10% of many health factors including access to clinical care, overall health outcomes, and social and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Kaweah Delta Medical Center, Tulare County's largest hospital, has experienced continued overflow conditions since October 2017, and has operated one to two temporary surge tents in its parking lot since November 2017, under temporary licensing by the California Department of Public Health Licensing & Certification Program to meet patient demand; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Tulare Local Healthcare District facilities creates an economic hardship for hundreds of healthcare workers and support staff who must seek other employment and may not return to the area creating a further healthcare deficit, as well as thousands of patients (especially disadvantaged individuals) who must travel further to receive, or ultimately forego, their health care; and

WHEREAS, the Tulare Local Healthcare District board continues to endeavor to reopen its facilities at the earliest possible date, through partnerships, loans, and other means, but to date, all efforts to restore operations of its clinics and hospital have been unsuccessful because of major financial hurdles; and

WHEREAS, if Tulare Local Healthcare District cannot reopen the hospital prior to October 28, 2018, the District may face considerable additional challenges, delays, and expenses, which could result in the permanent closure of the District's facilities; and

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2018, the Tulare Local Health Care District voted unanimously to proclaim a local emergency in order to seek State assistance via the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and has approached the County to do the same; and

WHEREAS, the financial resources necessary to reopen the hospital are beyond the means of Tulare Local Healthcare District and will required the combined resources of other jurisdictions to address; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation may need to be amended as conditions change.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors that conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the County of Tulare, as evidenced by the recitals above, due to the accumulating stresses and impacts to the regional healthcare system since October, 2017, and, therefore, a local emergency now exists in Tulare County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of Tulare County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of Tulare County, and by the Tulare County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this Local Emergency Proclamation is issued pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, commencing with Government Code §8550; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services; and

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency for Tulare County and that the Governor take any necessary steps to make financial and other resources, including California Disaster Assistance Act funding, available to the Tulare Local Healthcare District to promote and facilitate the reopening of the hospital; and

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors that the State of California exercise its regulatory discretion and authority, to the fullest extent allowed by law, in such a manner that promotes and facilitates the reopening of Tulare Regional Medical Center; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the necessity for this Local Emergency Proclamation shall be reviewed at least once every thirty (30) days pursuant to Government Code §8630(c), and terminated at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant pursuant to Government Code §8630(d); and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this proclamation shall take effect immediately.

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR VANDER POEL, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR SHUKLIAN, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 5, 2018, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: SUPERVISORS CROCKER, VANDER POEL, SHUKLIAN, WORTHLEY, AND ENNIS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE



ATTEST: MICHAEL C. SPATA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY:


Deputy Clerk

HHSA

HAR
06/05/2018



**Health & Human Services
Agency
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: June 5, 2018

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
County Counsel Sign-Off	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Andrew Lockman PHONE: 559-624-8000

SUBJECT: Proclamation of a Local Emergency due to Critical Shortage of Health Care Facilities

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:
Adopt a proclamation of local emergency due to critical shortage of health care facilities.

SUMMARY:
Since October 2017, the ongoing closure of Tulare Regional Medical Center has had a significant impact on the region's healthcare system. Local hospitals in Tulare County, and to some extent those in Kings, Kern, and Fresno Counties, have been impacted with additional patients and higher wait times as a result. Critically, ambulances are having to transport patients further – in some cases to adjacent counties – and remain at overflowing hospitals longer until patients can be placed in a bed and turned over to hospital staff. These delays can at times strain the Emergency Medical Services system's ability to adequately cover the service area, which can cause delays in the arrival of advanced life support personnel to critical medical aid incidents. In addition, patients that have been identified as requiring admission to the hospital may wait several hours in the emergency room until an overburdened census capacity can accommodate them.

In addition to the hospital impacts, clinics, laboratories, diagnostic, surgical, and other services have also been negatively impacted. Kaweah Delta Medical Center, which has absorbed a significant portion of the patient load from Tulare Regional Medical Center, has operated on overflow status for the entire winter and spring

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seasons, with a surge tent setup in its parking lot since November 21, 2017, and a second simultaneous tent operating for the first time in its history for a majority of February and March 2018.

There is also an economic impact to the community, as hundreds of employees of Tulare Local Healthcare District suffered employment impacts, and disadvantaged populations are forced to choose between foregoing healthcare or expending additional time and money to access needed services.

The Tulare Local Healthcare District board continues to endeavor to reopen its facilities at the earliest possible date, however its efforts to date have been unsuccessful. On May 30, 2018, the Tulare Local Healthcare District voted unanimously to proclaim a local emergency in order to seek State assistance via the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and has approached the County to do the same.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no cost to proclaiming a Local Emergency.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Safety and Security initiative, with a directive to plan and provide coordinated emergency preparedness, response, and recovery and mitigation capabilities for both natural and man-made disasters. Proclaiming a local emergency facilitates the County's response to, recovery from, and mitigation against such disasters.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:


0990 JASON BRITT
Jason T. Britt
Agency Director

cc: County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s) Proclamation