

**RESOLUTION 20-19
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
HELIX WATER DISTRICT
CONFIRMING DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the United States has seen an unprecedented spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to COVID-19, various state and local agencies have adopted emergency declarations (the State of California [March 4, 2020], the County of San Diego [February 14, 2020, ratified on February 19, 2020], City of El Cajon (March 16, 2020), City of La Mesa [March 13, 2020]), and other local jurisdictions have adopted emergency declarations to provide additional resources to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency ordered that all public and private gatherings of 50 or more people in a single room or space is prohibited (which the ban on March 18, 2020, further reduced to 10 or more people), and that all businesses shall enact social distancing, increased sanitation standards and shall make every effort to use telecommuting for its workforce; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the California State Water Resources Control Board issued a fact sheet with information on California's water supply. The fact sheet provides in part as follows: "California's comprehensive and safe drinking water standards require a multi-step treatment process that includes filtration and disinfection. This process removes and kills viruses, including coronaviruses such as COVID-19, as well as bacteria and other pathogens;" and

WHEREAS, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency has established regulations with treatment requirements for public water systems that prevent waterborne pathogens such as viruses contaminating drinking water and as of March 19, 2020 advises that "Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual;" and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, ordering all individuals living in the state of California to stay home or at their place of residence, except as needed to maintain continuity of operation of the federal critical infrastructure sectors; and

WHEREAS, continuity of the provision of drinking water services to the residents of the state of California including the residents of the Helix Water District, is one of the critical infrastructure sectors identified in Executive Order N-33-20; and

WHEREAS, the district, due to its provision of water services to the residents of the district, is a critical infrastructure under the Executive Order, providing an essential resource in ensuring the health and safety of the residents of the district; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, pursuant to the authority granted to the general manager under Section 7.1 Emergency Operations Plan of the district's policies and procedures manual, the general manager declared an emergency and activation of the Emergency Operations Center, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and instituted best safety practices to reduce potential spread of the virus among employees to ensure continued service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Helix Water District as follows:

1. An emergency condition began on March 16, 2020, and continues to exist, necessitating continued activation of the district's Emergency Operations Center. This declaration does not in any manner signify any issues as to the water supply, but rather is made for the purposes stated herein. The actions of the general manager related to activation of the district's Emergency Operations Center and declaration of an emergency are hereby ratified by the board of directors.
2. That the general manager of the Helix Water District is authorized to institute all provisions of Section 7.1 Emergency Operations Plan of the district's policies and procedures manual, including the ability to pay staff to remain at home and on call as directed by their respective supervisor. This is in addition to the authority of the general manager in non-emergency times. The actions of the general manager in furtherance of the provisions of the district's policies and procedures manual Section 7.1 Emergency Operations Plan from the March 16, 2020 declaration of emergency are hereby ratified by the board of directors.
3. That pursuant to the provisions of Section 3.1-4 Emergency Work of the district's policies and procedures manual, the general manager is authorized to waive any of the district's standard procurement policies and requirements in order to procure goods and/or services required to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure continued operation of the district's services. Any such procurements shall comply with the provisions of Public Contract Code Section 22050, and any such procurements that are in excess of the general manager's contracting authority will be presented to the board of directors for ratification within 14 days of the procurement.
4. The board of directors declare that no customer shall have their water service discontinued for non-payment during the declared emergency. Any and all actions of the general manager to non-termination of water service prior to the date of this resolution are hereby ratified by the board of directors.

5. The board of directors request the district be granted financial assistance, to the extent available, pursuant to the California Disaster Assistance Act or any Federal Funding Sources to recover the expenses incurred by the district in responding to the conditions of said emergency. The board of directors direct the general manager to forward a copy of this resolution declaring an emergency, which shall be deemed the equivalent of an ordinance pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 8630, to the director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The board of directors further requests that the director find this resolution acceptable in accordance with state law; that the governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the state expedite access to state and federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the board of directors of the Helix Water District at a regular meeting held this 15th day of April 2020 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Gracyk, Verbeke, Scalzitti, Hedberg, McMillan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



Mark Gracyk, Board President

ATTEST:



Sandy L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board

Seal:

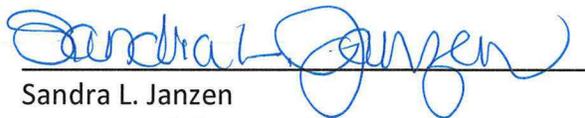


Certification

I, Sandra L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board of the Helix Water District, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution 20-19 adopted by the board of directors of Helix Water District on April 15, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Helix Water District this April 17, 2020.




Sandra L. Janzen
Secretary of the Board