



News Release

Contact: Raul Mendez, City Manager

March 17, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Director of Emergency Services for the City of Hughson Issues Proclamation of Local Emergency and Announces Other Measures Instituted in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

"We continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 issue and are coordinating with Federal, State and local agencies accordingly. It is important that we take steps to be prepared and do our part to reduce the potential spread of the Coronavirus." – Hughson City Manager and Director of Emergency Services Raul L. Mendez

Hughson City Manager, Raul L. Mendez, under his authority as the Director of Emergency Services, issued a proclamation of a local emergency in the City of Hughson, effective immediately, in accordance with the California Emergency Services Act and the Hughson Municipal Code in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hughson City Council is expected to ratify the declaration within seven days as required during its March 23, 2020 regular meeting.

The proclamation was declared in order to empower the City to:

- Respond effectively to COVID-19.
- Access mutual aid, if necessary.
- Ensure the City can obtain reimbursement for efforts dealing with the local emergency.
- Ensure that City of Hughson staff has all the necessary tools and powers at their disposal to slow the spread of COVID-19.

As an additional safety measure, Hughson City Hall and several City facilities are closed to public access effective March 17, until further notice. During this closure, City employees will continue to work and carry out their essential functions such as public safety, water and sewer, customer service and more.

The closure applies to the following City facilities:

- Hughson City Hall – 7018 Pine Street.
- Hughson Community Senior Center – 2307 4th Street.
- United Samaritan Foundation Center – 2413 3rd Street.
- Hughson Corporation Yard – 2301 1st Street.
- Hughson Wastewater Treatment Facility – 6700 Leedom Road.

In addition, the Director of Emergency Services has instituted other measures to align to Federal, State and Local orders and guidance documents during this period as follows:

- Directing customers to use online services for utility payments or leave payments (no cash) in the outdoor drop box at Hughson City Hall.
- Only emergency building permits will be processed and issued by appointment only. Some exceptions will be made to building permits already in progress at the discretion of the Community Development Director.
- The reservation and use of City facilities (centers, parks, etc.) will be suspended until further notice. If you recently made a reservation, please contact City Hall and arrangements will be made to refund your deposit.
- Programs (senior, exercise, table tennis, etc.) at City facilities will be cancelled, postponed or modified. City staff is working with coordinators to minimize the impact to program participants.
- Local restaurants are encouraged to close, if possible, or institute social distancing measures and offer food pick-up/to go dining options. Hughson businesses should contact City Hall if they need guidance in this area.
- City annual events will be cancelled or postponed. This includes the Hughson Fruit and Nut Festival, Love Hughson, Citywide Cleanup, Citywide Yard Sale, Bike to Work/School, etc.
- City residents are encouraged to report issues using the www.SeeClickFix.com application (available through the City's website or face book page).
- City Council (except 3/23), Planning Commission (expect 3/17), Parks, Recreation and Entertainment Commission, Economic Development Committee, 2+2 City/Fire and 2+2 City/School publics meetings will be cancelled.
- Participation of City Council and City staff in nonessential meetings and trainings will be restricted.
- City staff will work with local partners (faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations and service clubs) to identify seniors 65+ and older and those with chronic conditions to offer support and provide services as able.

The City of Hughson appreciates your cooperation and patience during these challenging times. These are protective measures to limit public contact and gatherings and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Questions concerning local issues with COVID-19 are directed to the Public Health Hotline at 209.558.7535 or www.stanemergency.com.

These initial measures may be updated as necessary. For more information, please visit the City of Hughson website at www.hughson.org or call 209.883.4054.

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