



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Ratify
Local Public Health Emergency on COVID-19**

STOCKTON — The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors met today in a special meeting session and ratified the declaration of the Local Health Emergency declared by the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The declaration will enable the County to more effectively respond to the outbreak, seek and utilize mutual aid, potentially obtain reimbursement, and ensure that the County's public health professionals and providers have all necessary personal protective equipment to provide quality care and keep the community safe.

On March 12, 2020, Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County's Interim Public Health Officer declared a local public health emergency regarding COVID-19, and under State law, the County Board of Supervisors must ratify this action within 7 days.

"The COVID-19 Coronavirus has created a fast moving and fluid situation that demands immediate attention from local, State and Federal entities," said San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors chair, Kathy Miller. "This declaration will allow the County to access critical funding, equipment, and infrastructure to provide the prevention measures, testing, and health services that must be delivered without delay."

In addition, Dr. Park gave a presentation to the Board on COVID-19 which provided details on the origin of the disease, transmittal and testing of the virus, and information on prevention which includes the following:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from other individuals
- Limit large gatherings to 250 people and small gatherings to 10 people
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces at home and work

San Joaquin Public Health Director Zienna Blackwell-Rodriquez also provided an update to the Board on the establishment of a phone bank to answer calls from residents which is operational 7 days a week, providing education to members of the public, and serving as a testing facility for the county. It was noted that additional test kits were needed in San Joaquin County and that the County was requesting more from the State. There are currently 13 confirmed COVID-19 cases in San Joaquin County.

While the Board met in person, it encouraged members of the public to participate via livestream and received several public comments through e-mail which were read and answered by county staff.

The Director of San Joaquin General Services, Marcia Cunningham, also addressed the Board and noted that she was declaring a local emergency for San Joaquin County. The Board of Supervisors will be acting on that declaration at the March 24, 2020 Board Meeting.

San Joaquin County services remain open to the public. Please call the respective County Department to see if you can receive any needed services over the phone or online. The County directory can be found along the bottom of our homepage at www.sjgov.org.

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