

## RESOLUTION NO. 2768

**A RESOLUTION** of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington Authorizing the General Manager to Take Action to Ensure the Health and Safety of Employees and the Public; and Declaring an Emergency Under RCW 39.04.280.

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020 the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) commencing January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020 Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020 the Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners declared a county-wide state of emergency related to the significant health threat caused by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the District provides an essential public service that is critical to public health, safety, and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's employees are its most important asset and the District is not able to perform its essential public service without employees who are ready and available to perform their job duties; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, effective immediately, the General Manager is hereby authorized to take any appropriate and legal action to ensure health and safety of employees and the public.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Manager is authorized to declare that an emergency exists as defined by RCW 39.04.280 (3), waive competitive bidding requirements, and award necessary contracts in order to purchase goods and services necessary to address the COVID-19 emergency.

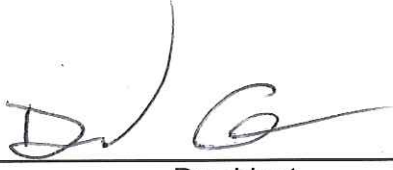
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Manager may, within applicable legal requirements:

1. Require all employees to be sent home and not allowed to return to work until directed by the General Manager or his designee, except those employees necessary to maintain critical business functions of the District; and
2. Establish a limited duration supplemental leave program, over and above existing paid leave programs, to ensure employees and their families are cared for and that critical knowledge and skills are retained for the benefit of the District and the public.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the foregoing authority extends for the duration of the emergency, or until the Board withdraws such authority; and the Board requests regular updates regarding the state of the emergency, no less frequently than monthly.

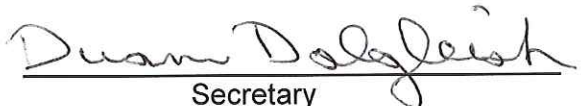
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution is not intended to establish a precedent for how similar emergency situations will be addressed in the future.

**ADOPTED** by the Commission of Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington, at a special meeting thereof this 14th day of March 2020.

  
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President

  
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Vice President

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary