

**WOODINVILLE WATER DISTRICT
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

RESOLUTION NO. 3959

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WOODINVILLE WATER DISTRICT, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19; AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY MEASURES TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED WATER SERVICE BY THE DISTRICT DURING THE COVID-19 EVENT, INCLUDING WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO RCW 39.04.280.

WHEREAS, Woodinville Water District ("District") provides critical water and sewer service to customers located within its service area, which service is essential for public health, safety and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the District needs to ensure that the District's water and sewer system can provide uninterrupted service for community use, hygiene, and sanitation, to prevent the spread of illness, and maintain public health; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the Secretary of the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency to aid state health department efforts to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

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

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of Washington closed all public and private K-12 schools in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump approved a nationwide emergency declaration for COVID-19, and also on March 13, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee ordered that all public and private K-12 schools in Washington shall close for at least six weeks; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee prohibited all gatherings of more than 50 persons, prohibited all gatherings of 50 persons or less unless certain public health protocols are implemented and followed, and announced the immediate two-week closure of all restaurants, bars and entertainment and recreational facilities in the State; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, and which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, many cases of COVID-19 already exist in King, Snohomish and Pierce Counties, COVID-19 has been linked to deaths, and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission will continue to occur globally, within the United States, and locally; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, it is anticipated that absenteeism will increase from illness, the fear of infection, and the need to care for ill family members, as well as children due to school closures. This absenteeism may affect drinking water system operators (District Employees) and their capability to operate and maintain their systems adequately, thereby increasing the risks to public health; and

WHEREAS, absenteeism may affect workers from other essential and interdependent sectors, having an adverse impact on services such as delivery of essential materials and supplies to the District, and the District may need waive the formal bidding requirements, as allowed for in RCW 39.04.280, to ensure the District can obtain essential materials and supplies, and to continue to provide essential services; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic may also cause severe economic disruption in the community and customers may be impacted in their ability to pay for District services by the payment deadlines normally established to maintain water services; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Woodinville Water District of King County, Washington, as follows:


1. The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by this reference.
2. The District hereby declares that a local emergency exists due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The District General Manager and staff shall take such actions as are deemed appropriate, and generally in conformance with the District's Emergency Response Plan.
3. Pursuant to, and as authorized by, RCW 39.04.280, and the Emergency Response Plan, the General Manager is hereby authorized to waive the competitive bidding requirements for the District's purchase of essential materials, supplies, and Public Works required to operate the water system, and the General Manager is directed and authorized to take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure uninterrupted operation of the District water and sewer systems.
4. The General Manager is hereby given specific authority to temporarily close, partially close, or otherwise limit public access the District buildings and other District facilities, including its main office, if the General Manager determines in his discretion that it is necessary for the health and safety of the public, District personnel, or otherwise. Such closure shall be in conjunction with the District's Pandemic and Public Health Emergency Response and Recovery Policy.
5. The General Manager is directed that, during the time period in which the State Declaration of Emergency is in effect for the COVID-19 event, (1) the District shall not

terminate water service to any account, and (2) the District shall not file any new statutory liens under RCW 57.08.081. All customers will, however, continue to be regularly billed for the services the District provides. The General Manager is further authorized to, in the Manager's discretion, develop emergency policies and procedures for the billing, payment, and collection of the District's customer accounts that insure customers continue to receive the essential public services provided by the District while minimizing the financial risk to the District, and to present those policies and procedures to the Board for approval.

6. The General Manager is authorized to, in the Manager's discretion, develop any additional policies or procedures deemed necessary or advisable to apply during the during the time period in which the State Declaration of Emergency is in effect for the COVID-19 event, and to present those policies and procedures to the Board for approval.
7. If the General Manager is unable to perform any of the activities authorized and directed in this resolution, the designated member of the Management Team is authorized and directed to carry out the duties and activities of the General Manager in this regard.
8. If any action is taken using any of the additional authority authorized in this Resolution (e.g., waiving competitive bidding, closing a District building to the public), then the Commissioners shall be notified by telephone or email as soon as possible and in any case within a reasonable time.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Woodinville Water District of King County, Washington, at the open public meeting held March 17, 2020.


Pamela J. Maloney - President


Chuck Clarke – Vice President

Dale Knapinski – Secretary


Tim Schriever - Commissioner


Karen Steeb – Commissioner

Attest:

Dale Knapinski- Secretary