

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO TAKE ACTION TO PROMOTE RECOGNITION OF LANGUAGE DIVERSITY IN EMERGENCY PLANNING AND TO ADOPT SENATE BILL 160 WHICH WILL REQUIRE THE INTEGRATION OF CULTURAL COMPETENCE INTO LOCAL ENTITIES' EMERGENCY PLANS.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, it is critical that all of our communities receive the life-saving information they need during an emergency or natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 languages are spoken in California and 44% of California residents speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 languages are spoken in San Mateo County and 46% of County residents speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County must do everything possible to ensure emergency plans incorporate the diverse needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, improvements to emergency alert translations are needed, in addition to plans to reach diverse populations who may be missed by traditional outreach plans and strategies; and

WHEREAS, ensuring California's most overlooked communities are well equipped during emergencies, addressing the need for cultural competency and emergency planning is a crucial step in protecting all Californians from the increasing threat of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties need to incorporate cultural competence in their emergency plans by integrating interpreters and translators in emergency communications; and

WHEREAS, it is important to incorporate qualified representatives from community groups and using culturally appropriate resources when preparing community members for emergency or disasters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors urges the State Legislature to adopt Senate Bill 160 which will require the integration of cultural competence into local entities' emergency plans.