PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO DUE TO THE CZU AUGUST LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRES

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630(b) and Chapter 2.46 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code authorize the Board of Supervisors ("Board") to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County of San Mateo ("County") is threatened by conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the County which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat and the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager, acting in the role of the County's Director of Emergency Services, has informed this Board that beginning on August 18, 2020, fires in the southern portion of San Mateo County that are collectively referred to as the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires, which appear to have been caused by lightning strikes related to atypical weather patterns, have given rise to conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the County, and this Board agrees that conditions of disaster and extreme peril to persons and property within the territorial limits of the County are posed by the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires that are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County; and

WHEREAS, the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires have burned approximately 10,000 acres and continues to threaten communities and property in southern San Mateo County and, as a result of these fires, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("Cal Fire") has issued evacuation orders for the communities of Loma Mar and Dear Park, as well as areas in the vicinity of Pescadero Creek County Park and the Butano area; and

WHEREAS, an evacuation center has been established at the Pescadero High School; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the fires burning statewide; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of local resources and the ability to coordinate interagency response, to accelerate procurement of vital supplies, to use of mutual aid, and to allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments will be critical to successfully responding to this emergency; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence of a local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a local emergency exists in the County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of the County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of the County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by this Board, subject to this Board's obligation to periodically review the need for continuing this proclamation of local emergency; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with state law; that the Governor of California, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in the County of San Mateo; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

Dated: August 19, 2020