



March 18, 2020

A statement to the citizens of Sutter Creek from Mayor Robin Peters regarding the COVID-19 outbreak

Most of us never expected that a global pandemic would be knocking at our doors but here it is, and now we must deal with it. Hoping coronavirus will go away or believing it will somehow miss Sutter Creek is simply not an intelligent strategy given what our public health officials are reporting. On behalf of its residents, your City government is taking the threat seriously and is implementing aggressive measures as a result.

The City Manager and I have been working, quite literally, around the clock to stay informed regarding the latest developments and guidance from our public safety experts. We are monitoring guidance from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), FEMA, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and local, state and federal public health experts. Such guidance changes hourly as new data and information are generated, but we're diligently monitoring to ensure we always act responsibly based on the most up to date information. Sutter Creek's residents should feel comforted knowing the City's staff, management and Council are all working together to help keep our community safe.

As of this writing, confirmed cases have reached Calaveras County to our south, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Sacramento Counties to our west, and Placer County to our north. Local health officials do not currently report confirmed cases in Amador County, however little or no testing is being conducted here so cases may exist that have not yet been identified. We should all assume that confirmed cases will begin to appear in Amador County at any time.

Epidemiological modeling published on March 16 by the World Health Organization concluded that a combination of transmission mitigation and suppression strategies is essential to controlling rapid spread of the virus. Many neighboring counties and cities have already implemented such measures, some of which are not very popular. The collective opinion of most public health professionals, however, is that early

implementation of aggressive mitigation strategies will save lives and that waiting too long or denying that transmission will spread to our community may cost lives.

Today, after careful consideration, the City Manager will be proclaiming a Local Health Emergency and tomorrow the City Council will convene a special meeting to ratify the Emergency proclamation. In addition, today the City Manager will issue a Stay-at Home Advisory intended to restrict, discourage or eliminate activities that are known to promote virus transmission. The City's Stay-at-Home Advisory is not an order enforceable by law, but our expectation is that every member of the community will heed its direction in the interest of the health and safety of all.

We understand that some of the Advisory's directives will be inconvenient, disruptive and perhaps costly, but public health professionals advise us that aggressive measures must be taken to protect the general health and safety of the public. We trust and believe these measures will be temporary, to be lifted in the coming weeks as guidance allows. In the mean time, please know that your City Council and City staff are working day and night to stay ahead of the crisis in an effort to keep our community safe.

Robin Peters, Mayor
City of Sutter Creek