

RESOLUTION - 2020-14
AMENDMENT TO SECOND EXTENSION OF DECLARATION OF
STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County has been informed by its emergency management staff of continuation of the imminent threat posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 and infectious diseases have the capacity to pose a significant, imminent, and dangerous threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of Santa Rosa County, Florida, visitors and tourists in Santa Rosa County, Florida, as well as their real and personal property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has met with the County Administrator, been informed of risks facing Santa Rosa County and considered whether or not to declare a state of local emergency.

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health is reporting that as of May 1, 2020 the total number of cases has increased to 34,728 with deaths of 1,314; and

WHEREAS, On May 5, 2020 a prescribed burn by private parties on private property became uncontrolled due to adverse weather conditions and burned approximately 150 acres, and was termed the five-mile swamp fire; and

WHEREAS, On May 6, 2020 the five-mile swamp fire grew into an explosive conflagration and consumed at least 2,000 acres and 17 structures including 13 residences and required evacuation of at least 1100 persons; and

WHEREAS, it was necessary that the Florida Fish and Wildlife commission, the Florida Department of Agriculture, Santa Rosa County, the Santa Rosa County Sheriff Department, and Gulf Power; and other utilities and entities take emergency action to protect and preserve human life, safety, and properties; and

WHEREAS, the existing drought and weather conditions in Santa Rosa County may lead to continuation of the existing and additional wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the existing extended State of Emergency should be amended and extended to address this additional danger to the people and properties within Santa Rosa County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Section 9-26, Santa Rosa County Code of Ordinances states that in a declared state of emergency the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, absent a decision made by a vote of the quorum of the board, is empowered to declare a local state of emergency and take prudent action necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community and in the absence of the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners the County Administrator or the Assistant County Administrator is empowered to do so.

NOW THEREFORE, the Assistant County Administrator on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida, does hereby declare and establish that:

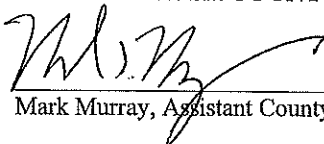
1. The above recitals are true and are incorporated herein.
2. A state of local emergency continues in Santa Rosa County due to COVID-19 and existing and potential wildfires.
3. The Board of County Commissioners hereby waives the procedures and formalities otherwise required of Santa Rosa County pertaining to:
 - a. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to insure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
 - b. Entering into contracts.
 - c. Incurring obligations.
 - d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
 - e. Utilization of volunteer workers.
 - f. Rental of equipment.
 - g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.
 - h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.
4. The County Administrator, or his designee, is hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to exercise, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, such emergency powers necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, including, but not limited to, the powers to direct and compel evacuation of all or part of the population from stricken or threatened areas within the County, if such action is deemed necessary to reduce the vulnerability of people in communities of Santa Rosa County to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from the imminent threat, as well

expressly or implicitly conferred pursuant to Chapters 125 and 252, Florida Statutes, and any other provision of law or county ordinance.

5. The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) remains activated.
6. This authority shall extend for an initial period of seven days from May 7, 2020 and will be automatically extended for successive seven day periods, or until further action by the Board of County Commissioners terminates such authority or declares that the state of local emergency has ended.
7. This Resolution shall be transmitted to the Secretary of State upon adoption.

Adopted this 8TH day of May 2020.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**



Mark Murray, Assistant County Administrator

(ATTEST)



Donald C. Spencer, Clerk of Court



