

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-27

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO STRONGLY URGING BASIC UTILITIES PROVIDERS – INCLUDING WATER, GAS, ELECTRICITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS – TO IMPOSE MORATORIUMS ON SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS AND LATE FEES FOR NON-PAYMENT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

On Tuesday March 24, 2020, on motion of Supervisor Lovingood, duly seconded by Supervisor Rutherford and carried, the following resolution is adopted by the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, State of California.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency in the State of California related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, despite sustained efforts, the virus remains a threat, and further efforts to control the spread of the virus to reduce and minimize the risk of infection and otherwise mitigate the effects of COVID-19 are needed; and

WHEREAS, many residents are experiencing substantial losses of income as a result of business closures, the loss of hours or wages, or layoffs related to COVID-19, hindering their ability to keep up with their rents, mortgages, and utility bills; and

WHEREAS, residents who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, those 65 years and older, and those with underlying health issues, are advised to self-quarantine, self-isolate, or otherwise remain in their homes to reduce the transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these public health benefits, state and local policies to promote social distancing, self-quarantine, and self-isolation and the need to continue the education of children who are home as a result of school closures, require that people be able to access basic utilities – including water, gas, electricity, and telecommunications – at their homes, so that Californians can work from home continue their children’s education, receive public health information, and otherwise adhere to policies of social distancing, self-quarantine, and self-isolation, if needed; and

WHEREAS, as recognized by the Governor, in his Executive Order N-28-20, many utility providers, public and private, covering electricity, gas, water, and sewer, have voluntarily announced moratoriums on service disconnections and late fees for non-payment in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as recognized by the Governor, in his Executive Order N-28-20, many telecommunication companies, including internet and cell phone providers, have voluntarily announced moratoriums on service disconnections and late fees for non-payment in response to COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board of Supervisors strongly urges that basic utilities providers within the County of San Bernardino, in order to allow the residents to promote social distancing, self-quarantine and self-isolation in their homes during this health crisis, impose moratoriums on service disconnections and late fees for non-payment in response to COVID-19. For purposes of this Resolution, “basic utilities providers” shall include water, gas, electricity and telecommunications providers.

3. Observance of the above-described moratoriums will allow residents to work from home, continue the education of their children, receive public health information, order and receive necessary food and supplies, in addition to adhere to policies of social distancing, self-quarantine and self-isolation in this time of the COVID-19 crisis.
4. The basic utility providers are strongly encouraged to maintain the above-described moratoriums until April 30, 2020.
5. This resolution shall be liberally construed to provide the broadest possible protection for the citizens of the County.
6. The County Executive Officer, the County Counsel, and all other County officers and department heads, are authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: Robert A. Lovingood, Janice Rutherford, Dawn Rowe, Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales

NOES: SUPERVISORS: None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: None

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO) ss.

I, **LYNNA MONELL**, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the record of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors, by vote of the members present, as the same appears in the Official Minutes of said Board at its meeting of March 24, 2020. Item #68 JM

LYNNA MONELL
 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By  Deputy

