



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service  
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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *March 31, 2020*

**DATE:** Friday, March 27, 2020  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Aaron Kenneston, Emergency Manager, Office of the County Manager  
775-337-5898, [AKenneston@washoecounty.us](mailto:AKenneston@washoecounty.us)  
**THROUGH:** Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager  
**SUBJECT:** **Recommendation to receive and accept the Declaration of a State of Emergency declared by the Washoe County Manager, ratify the Declaration, and direct staff to publicize the Declaration as required by WCC 65.320. (All Commission Districts).**

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### SUMMARY

The Board will receive the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the Washoe County Manager on March 16, 2020, for Washoe County resulting from Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), interruptions to government, disruption of utility services, and other potential and related events in Washoe County to the extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and is asked to ratify that declaration by a majority of the Board and to publicize the same pursuant to WCC 65.320.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

N/A

### BACKGROUND

Prior to March 16, 2020, Washoe County staff, including Emergency Manager Aaron Kenneston and County Manager Eric Brown, were notified by the Washoe County Health District of an imminent spread of the COVID-19 virus to Washoe County. County staff determined that due to the threat of loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering or financial loss, which would require extraordinary measures to be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare, that an emergency as defined at WCC 65.300(4) existed and therefore requested the County Manager declare an emergency. On March 16, 2020, County Manager Eric Brown declared an emergency attached hereto which was publicized as required by WCC 65.320(1). Washoe County response activities are continuing for the near future.

Washoe County Code 63.520 allows the County Manager to declare an emergency when circumstances prevent timely action by the Board, provided the Manager seeks the

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ratification of that declaration by a majority of the Board at the next lawful meeting of the Board.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The total costs of response and recovery efforts are being compiled under two Statistical Orders, 70778 for the Health District, and 70782 for all other Washoe County Departments. Requests for reimbursement will be submitted to the appropriate agencies.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners receive and accept the Declaration of a State of Emergency declared by the Washoe County Board Manger on Monday, March 16, 2020, ratify the Declaration, and direct staff to publicize the Declaration as required by WCC 65.320.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to receive and accept the Declaration of a State of Emergency declared by the Washoe County Manager on Monday, March 16, 2020, ratify the Declaration, and direct staff to publicize the Declaration as required by WCC 65.320.”*