OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE  
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY  
REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)  

WHEREAS, in December 2019, an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19), was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and has spread outside of China, impacting many countries, including the United States;  

WHEREAS, Metropolitan is monitoring the actions of the counties within its service area and the State of California, which have been working in close collaboration with the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with the United States Department of Health & Human Services, and with local health departments since December 2019 to monitor and plan for the potential spread of COVID-19 to the United States;  

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2020, the CDC activated its Emergency Response System to provide ongoing support for the response to COVID-19 across the country;  

WHEREAS on January 24, 2020, the California Department of Public Health activated its Medical and Health Coordination Center and on March 2, 2020, the Office of Emergency Services activated the State Operations Center to support and guide state and local actions to preserve public health;  

WHEREAS on February 14, 2020, the County of San Diego proclaimed a local emergency and declared a local health emergency regarding COVID-19;  

WHEREAS on February 26, 2020, the County of Orange declared a local emergency and the Orange County Health Officer declared a local health emergency regarding COVID-19;  

WHEREAS on March 4, 2019, the County of Los Angeles declared a local emergency and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health declared a public health emergency regarding COVID-19;  

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of Emergency, declaring an emergency based on the spread of COVID-19 and increasing instances in California;  

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, I issued a memorandum to all employees, explaining implementation of Metropolitan Pandemic Action Plan (Pandemic Plan), and setting forth actions taken for COVID-19 preparedness and response;  

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, the Riverside County Public Health Department declared a local health emergency regarding COVID-19;  

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the County of San Bernardino and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health declared a local health emergency regarding COVID-19;
WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the County of Ventura and the Ventura County Public Health Department declared a local health emergency regarding COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency to address COVID-19;

WHEREAS, as of March 14, 2020, there are 335 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and four deaths in California, and officials expect the number of cases in California to increase (see http://cdph.ca.gov/covid19);

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020, there are more than 3,400 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and a growing number of deaths in the United States, and officials expect the number of cases in the United States and worldwide to increase (see https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov); and

WHEREAS, based on these facts, I believe it is necessary to take emergency actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JEFFREY KIGHTLINGER, General Manager of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, in accordance with the authority vested in me pursuant to Metropolitan’s Administrative Code, in particular Sections 6104(b), 6410, and 6412, and Operating Policy A-06 on Emergency Management and Business Continuity, HEREBY DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY at Metropolitan.

Pursuant to this Declaration and until further notice, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Excluding those employees performing critical and essential functions tied to the operation and delivery of water supplies, all employees shall telework if the employee’s job duties lend themselves to such arrangements.

2. If employees cannot telework, they shall be placed on paid administrative leave.

3. Critical and essential employees, those necessary for on-going operations as designated by their managers, shall continue to work and abide by the actions required under Metropolitan Pandemic Plan, as set forth in my March 6, 2020 memorandum.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that I am instructing that this Declaration be immediately distributed to all Metropolitan employees and posted on Metropolitan’s IntraMet and external websites.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Declaration was signed in the County of Los Angeles on March 17, 2020.

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California