

RESOLUTION NO. 20-10

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE
DEFERRAL OF WATER AND WASTEWATER PAYMENTS
AND THE WAIVING OF PENALTIES**

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for conditions caused by COVID-19, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers a very serious public health threat; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Health Officer issued a Declaration of Local Health Emergency, ordering cancellations of large gatherings and implementation of social distancing for all areas of Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an executive order (N-33-20) requiring residents to stay at home unless required to work in a critical infrastructure setting, effectively closing or severely limiting businesses throughout California, resulting in a sharp rise in unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the compliance with this order has resulted in severe economic hardship for many Buellton residents and businesses, and an inability to pay their City water and wastewater bills in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Buellton Municipal Code Section 13.48.030 and City Council Resolution No. 20-05 require the payment of a penalty for failure to remit water and wastewater charges by the due date, and establish a process in which continued non-payment will result in shut-off of water service; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to provide some relief to residents and businesses who are struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related public health mandates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Buellton hereby authorizes the City Finance Director, or authorized designee, to defer payment of water and wastewater bills for residents and businesses for a period ending July 31, 2020 or 60 days from the date of the lifting of Executive Order N-33-20, and any public health orders issued by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Officer requiring the closure of businesses or implementing a “Stay at Home” policy, whichever occurs last.

SECTION 2. The City Council also waives the penalties associated with the late payment of water and wastewater bills deferred within the time frame established in Section 1. This waiver of penalties will continue through any payment arrangement period to avoid water service termination, as established in Section 3.

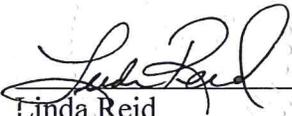
SECTION 3. The City Council further declares that no water service for business or residence shall be terminated for non-payment for a period of 1 year from the end date of the timeframe established in Section 1, so long as the business or resident establishes a payment arrangement with the City Finance Director or authorized designee which would result in the payment of outstanding charges within the 1 year period.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 1st day of April, 2020.



Holly Sierra
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Reid
City Clerk

