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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Press

Subject: State of Local Emergency Declared by City of Guadalupe in Response to COVID-19 (coronavirus)

No Reported Cases in Guadalupe as the City Prepares

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Guadalupe, CA — Today, the City of Guadalupe’s City Administrator, Todd Bodem, in his capacity as the City’s Director of Emergency Services, declared a local public emergency to strengthen the City’s preparedness and ability to respond to COVID-19, commonly known as novel coronavirus. This declaration must be ratified within seven days (7) by the City Council under state law, and the City Council will consider a resolution ratifying and proclaiming the existence of a local state of emergency at its upcoming regular meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

“We are prepared and continue to plan to address any possible spread of the coronavirus,” said Mayor Ariston Julian. “We continue to take proactive measures that will protect, treat and care for our residents, especially those most vulnerable.”

“Although at this time we have no reported cases of COVID-19 in our city, we must continue to be proactive and be in solidarity with Santa Barbara County and neighboring counties,” said City Administrator/Director of Emergency Services Todd Bodem. “I encourage the community to continue to visit www.ci.guadalupe.ca.us for the most up to date information.”

On March 12, 2020, the County of Santa Barbara Director of Emergency Services declared the local health emergency, and now this is being followed by the local city emergency declared by City Administrator/Director of Emergency Services Todd Bodem. These declarations will mobilize City resources, accelerate emergency planning, streamline staffing, coordinate agencies across the city, allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments and raise awareness throughout Guadalupe about how everyone can prepare in the event that COVID-19 appears in our community. San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties have issued similar declarations to bolster their preparedness.

There is currently an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The virus was first detected in China and has now been detected across the globe, including in the United States. COVID-19 usually causes mild disease such as fever and

cough, but can cause severe symptoms such as pneumonia and difficulty breathing. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person between people who are in close contact with one another (within six feet) or through respiratory droplets produced when someone coughs or sneezes. There has been community transmission in some circumstances throughout the West Coast of the U.S. at this time. This is a rapidly evolving situation and facts are changing quickly. Locally, there have been no cases of COVID-19 reported in Guadalupe at this time, although the situation could rapidly change. The Centers for Disease Control has advised local jurisdictions to prepare for more cases in the United States.

“While there are still no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the City of Guadalupe, the global crisis continues to evolve on a daily basis,” said Todd Bodem “We need to be ready and continue to increase preparedness efforts throughout the city.”

Guadalupe has been working diligently to prevent COVID-19, and to implement containment efforts should there be residents who test positive for the new virus. The Guadalupe Public Safety Department has activated its Department Operations Center, prioritizing resources and leadership to focus on community response.

“This is a global outbreak that is entering a new phase, and we must be prepared,” said Police Chief Michael Cash. “We are, and have been, working closely with other City agencies, the private health care systems, and businesses and educational institutions to ensure that Guadalupe is well informed and positioned to respond and do our best to mitigate the impact of the new virus, if it emerges in Guadalupe. These declarations give us more tools to be even more prepared.”

The City continues to closely monitor the situation and is in constant communication with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), local hospital emergency departments, urgent care centers, and local providers to obtain and provide the most updated guidance.

The City urges individuals to disclose any recent travel to affected areas to their providers if they develop symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms, and providers are urged to ask patients about their travel history and report any suspected cases of COVID-19 to the City immediately.

Some practical things the Guadalupe community can do to stay healthy are:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick.

If we experience a cluster of COVID-19 cases or a local outbreak, every sector of Guadalupe will have a role to play in ensuring the community’s health. Today’s proclamation provides a structure to support expanded efforts.

The community can learn more about what they can be doing to remain healthy, and they can stay up to date on this rapidly evolving situation by visiting www.ci.guadalupe.ca.us or the Santa Barbara County's website at www.countyofsb.org.

The City of Guadalupe has an estimated population of 8,500.