

RESOLUTION NO. 1712

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITY NO. 1 OKANOGAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY UNDER RCW 39.04.280

WHEREAS, Okanogan Public Utility District is a community-owned utility created by the voters of Okanogan County to provide utility services vital to the health and welfare of the District; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) commencing January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has experienced a growing number of verified cases and deaths related to the spread of COVID-19 resulting in Washington Governor Jay Inslee Issuing Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of the outbreak and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, in exercising his emergency authority, has banned gatherings over 50 people, banned gatherings under 50 people unless strict criteria for hygiene & social distancing are met; prohibited the onsite consumption of food and/or beverages in a public venue, and prohibited the operation of public venues in which people congregate for entertainment, social or recreational purposes;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, Governor Proclamation 20-23 amended Proclamation 20-05, which addresses the need to maintain utility services during this crisis as an essential tool in sustaining and protecting the health and welfare of individuals and businesses as a critical part of the overall COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes the COVID-19 emergency has resulted in unforeseen economic and social hardship conditions to its customers; and

WHEREAS, the District further recognizes that its employees are its most important asset and that it must implement measures to ensure that employees are available and fit to perform their job duties in order to support the reliable provision of essential utility and telecom services in a safe manner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Manager is hereby authorized to take any appropriate and legal action to ensure business continuity and for the health and safety of employees, which may include implementation and/or amendment of 1) internal processes and procedures to facilitate social distancing and proper hygiene practices, 2) office and business

hours, including the closure of facilities to the public, 3) leave and compensation programs, and 4) remote work programs.

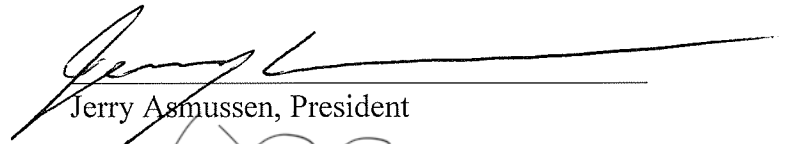
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager is authorized to declare an emergency exists as defined by RCW 39.04.280 (3), waive competitive bidding requirements, and award necessary contracts in order to purchase goods and services needed to address the COVID-19 emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager is authorized to implement measures to ensure the health and welfare of customers who notify the PUD of economic hardship due to the COVID-19 emergency, including but not limited to actions to prevent disconnection of services due to non-payment during the term of the statewide emergency declaration, waiver of late payments and fees, and use of payment plans to fulfill customer balances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager shall report any actions taken under the authorities delegated herein at the next regular Commission meeting, and, if required by law, the Commission shall ratify the General Manager's actions hereunder.

This Resolution shall continue in full force and effect until terminated by law or by further Resolution and shall be reviewed as a regular Commission agenda item until such time as this Resolution is terminated.

DATED this 23rd day of March 2020.

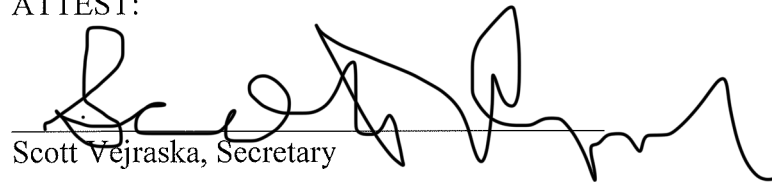


Jerry Asmussen, President



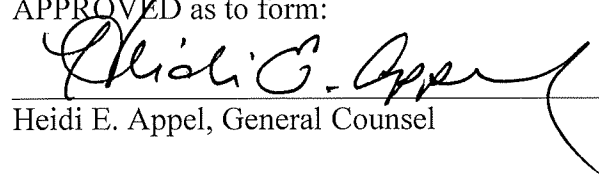
William C. Colyar, Vice President

ATTEST:



Scott Vejraska, Secretary

APPROVED as to form:



Heidi E. Appel, General Counsel