

## DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, on December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated as COVID-19, was detected in mainland China; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19, as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that spread into the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, over 3,487 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 68 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, a large gathering of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

**WHEREAS**, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, and promote the health and safety of all Zapata County residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. That a state of disaster is declared for Zapata County, Texas, pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

2. That the County's Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. That this state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days of the date hereof, unless the same is continued by consent of the Commissioners' Court of the County of Zapata, Texas
4. That this Declaration is being declared for the purpose of: a) continued coordination of a public response to COVID-19, and b) mobilizing local resources to continue monitoring and responding to the threats created by COVID-19; and
5. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

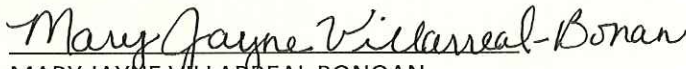
ORDERED this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



JOSEPH RATHMELL  
Zapata County Judge



ATTEST:



MARY JAYNE WILLARREAL BONOAN  
Zapata County Clerk

