



**DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-01**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus known as Sars-CoV-2 was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei province, People's Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease COVID-19 that has now spread globally; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency in response to Covid-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency to exist in California as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-25-20 giving state and local public health officials the authority to issue guidance limiting or recommending limitations upon attendance at public assemblies, conferences or other mass events; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Ventura County's Public Health Department declared a local health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, 25% of the residents of Ojai are over the age of 65 and at particular risk;

**WHEREAS**, Ojai Municipal Code section 3-1.05 states the City Manager is the Director of Emergency Services; and

**WHEREAS**, Ojai Municipal Code section 3-1.06 gives the Director of Emergency Services broad authority (1) to make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property, (2) to obtain vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of life and property, (3) to require and command emergency services, (4) to requisition the necessary personnel or materials of any city department or agency, and (5) to exercise all his or her lawful powers; and

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**WHEREAS**, the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, did proclaim the existence of a local emergency within the City on March 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council ratified the City Manager's proclamation on March 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Government Code section 8634 states, "During a local emergency the governing body of a political subdivision, or officials designated thereby, may promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property, including orders or regulations imposing a curfew within designated boundaries where necessary to preserve the public order and safety. Such orders and regulations and amendments and rescissions thereof shall be in writing and shall be given widespread publicity and notice."

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, James Vega, City Manager of the City of Ojai, as Director of Emergency Services, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Government Code section 8634, Ojai Municipal Code section 3-1.05, and City Council Resolution No. 20-11, do hereby issue the following order to become effective immediately:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. Trucks and other vehicles engaged in the delivery of grocery items to grocery stores, when such items are to be made available for sale to the public, are hereby exempt from having to comply with any City rules and regulations that limit the hours for such deliveries.
2. Vehicles engaged in the delivery of food from restaurants and grocery stores are also exempt from having to comply with any City rules and regulations that limit the hours for such deliveries.
3. Finally, I hereby order that no landlord shall evict a residential tenant in the city of Ojai during this local emergency period if the tenant is able to show an inability to pay rent due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These circumstances include loss of income due to a COVID-19 related workplace closure, childcare expenditures due to school closures, health care expenses related to being ill with COVID-19 or caring for a member of the tenant's household who is ill with COVID-19, or reasonable expenditures that stem from government-ordered emergency measures. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that the tenant will not still be obligated to pay lawfully charged rent. Tenants will have up to six months following the expiration of the local emergency period to repay any back-due rent. Tenants may use the protections afforded in this section as an affirmative defense in an unlawful detainer action. This section shall remain in effect during the pendency of the local emergency period.
4. This order shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk, posted at Ojai City Hall, and published in the Ojai Valley News.


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**SO ORDERED.**

  
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Director of Emergency Services  
City of Ojai  
MAR 17, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail Davis, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew T. Summers, City Attorney