VILLAGE OF QUESTA
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-07

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY/DISASTER DECLARATION

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially declared there to be a global pandemic of COVID-19 (Coronavirus); and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Mexico has declared a State of Health Emergency in order to contain and combat the virus; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Health Secretary has issued a Public Health Order suspending mass gatherings in New Mexico effective immediately in order to prevent the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised that local governments should take immediate action to limit the spread of the virus through social distancing, cancellation of public meetings, limiting public gatherings and events, and implementing additional public health and education measures to prevent, contain and mitigate the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Questa has responded to the Federal and State Public Health Emergency regarding a change in internal operations effective March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, All Village public events, trainings and meetings and all such events, trainings and meetings planned to be held in or on Village property are hereby cancelled until further notice, with the status to be reviewed periodically.

WHEREAS, the Village's EMS Team and Human Resources Department may set such safeguards for the public and employees regarding employees that travel out of the area or that become ill as are reasonable to protect the health and safety of staff and the public, consistent with the most current public health guidelines.

WHEREAS, that all non-essential facilities of the Village that involve significant interaction with residents or groups from outside the state or region that might increase staff or local residents to an increased threat of exposure to the virus shall be cancelled, to be reviewed periodically, with any requests for exceptions for public health, welfare and safety to be reviewed by the Village Administrator and the EMS Team.

WHEREAS, public meetings will be cancelled delaying the progress of internal work operations; and

WHEREAS, the Public Education Department has closed New Mexico Schools for 3 weeks which affects the ability for parents to continue their normal work routing while children are at school; and

WHEREAS, Village of Questa will experience the workforce staying home due to illness themselves or to family members and the need to provide compensation for Paid Emergency Administrative Leave; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Questa, with its reduced staff has had to close facilities and create alternatives to many of its programs, and

WHEREAS, the need to address the decrease in Village of Questa staff in order to comply and accommodate families will cause an increased probability of undue human suffering and hardship and threaten the safety, health, welfare and well-being of citizens, and economic function of the Village, and

WHEREAS, without assistance the Village will not have the resources to completely and effectively address continued response to the needs associated with the Coronavirus; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Village of Questa governing body, by virtue of the authority provided by New Mexico Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (NMSA 1978, 12-10-01, et. seq.) hereby declares the Village of Questa to be an emergency area for the purpose of exercising applicable emergency powers and expenditure of available resources, and requesting aid, assistance, and relief programs and funds available from the State of New Mexico and the Federal Government beginning on the 18th day of March 2020, ending on the 30th day of June 2020 or upon further order of the Village of Questa Governing Body.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the governing body at its emergency meeting on the 18th of March, 2020.

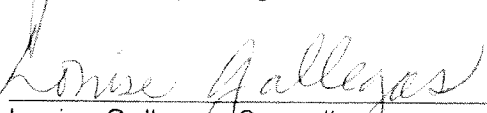**Village of Questa Governing Body:**
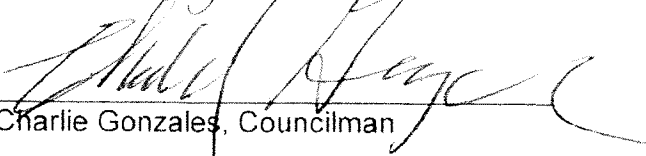
Mark Gallegos , Mayor

Brent Jaramillo, Councilman

John Anthony Ortega, Councilman

Louise Gallegos, Councilwoman

Charlie Gonzales, Councilman

ATTEST:

Renee Martinez, Village Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Village Attorney

SEAL — VILLAGE OF QUESTA INCORPORATED NEW MEXICO