EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-32-20

WHEREAS on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS despite sustained efforts, the virus continues to spread and is impacting nearly all sectors of California; and

WHEREAS in the past two years, the State of California has allocated $1.15 billion to local partners through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program and the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program, funding intended to provide for a variety of programs and facilities aimed at combatting homelessness; and

WHEREAS on March 17, 2020, I signed Senate Bill 89, emergency legislation that authorizes $500 million in immediately available funding to help California fight COVID-19 for any purpose related to the March 4, 2020 proclamation of a State of Emergency, including to support local governments to protect the health and safety of homeless populations, reduce the spread of COVID-19 in homeless populations, and provide safe beds for people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS the emergency of COVID-19 necessitates a more focused approach, including emergency protective measures to bring unsheltered Californians safely indoors, expand shelter capacity, maintain health and sanitation standards and institute medically indicated interventions, and add new isolation and quarantine capacity to California's shelter and housing inventory to slow the spread of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567 and 8571, do hereby issue the following order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1) To the limited extent that any part of Health & Safety Code section 50214, subdivision (a), restricts a local jurisdiction from expending Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds on preparing for and addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on homeless individuals, including through implementing guidance from the Department of Public Health on hand and respiratory hygiene and protective congregate living protocols, and providing isolation and quarantine capacity, that part is suspended.

2) To the limited extent that any part of Health & Safety Code section 50219, subdivision (c), restricts a local jurisdiction from expending Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program funds on preparing for and addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on homeless individuals, including through expanding shelter and housing services and capacity, that part is suspended.

3) Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are suspended for any project using Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds, Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program funds, or funds appropriated in Senate Bill 89, signed on March 17, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18th day of March 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State