



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: June 11, 2024

Title: Resolution 2024-7 Local emergency due to the closure of the only California pharmacy within Needles

Background: Earlier this year, Rite Aid, grappling with financial challenges due to the oversupply of prescription opioids, declared bankruptcy and announced the closure of numerous stores, with over 157 closures slated for California. Unfortunately, the Rite-Aid located in the City of Needles, closed its doors on February 5, 2024, as part of the bankruptcy and restructuring process.

Due to the closure of the sole California Pharmacy in the City of Needles, a vital lifeline for the local community to acquire essential and, at times, life-sustaining medications, goods, and services, the shutdown raised concerns about the accessibility of crucial healthcare resources. Furthermore, the cessation of the only existing pharmacy within the city left residents without a nearby California pharmacy to fulfill their urgent needs for essential medications, goods, and services, compromising their health and well-being.

On January 30, 2024, City Council adopted Resolution 2024-7, declaring a local emergency due to the closure of the only California Pharmacy within Needles.

In light of the ongoing emergency, the City of Needles continues to face an imminent threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. City staff continues to actively collaborate with various agencies and healthcare providers to identify nearby health care providers, ensuring that Needles residents can consistently access their pharmaceutical needs.

Press release #4 attached with the latest information.

Fiscal Impact: The closure of a pharmacy has had economic repercussions for the city. Job losses among pharmacy staff and related services have contributed to higher unemployment rates and decreased local income.

Environmental Impact: N/A

Recommended Action: Information Only

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 6/6/2024

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ Date: _____

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: _____