



# City of Needles, California

## Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA

☒ Regular ☐ Special

**Meeting Date:** March 12, 2024

**Title:** Resolution 2024-15 amending Resolution 2024-7 continuing the 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. Understanding the impact on the community, City Staff has diligently worked with the following entities to formulate a comprehensive solution.

- Rite Aid Pharmacy Staff
- Colorado River Medical Center
- Billet Health
- Needles Unified School District
- Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)
- Supervisor Dawn Rowe's Office
- SB County Dept. Public Health
- SB County Dept. Behavioral Health
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- State Senator Steve Padilla's Office
- CA Dept. Health Care Services
- Ca Dept. Managed Health Care

**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:** Waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2024-15 amending Resolution 2024-7 continuing the local emergency due to the closure of the only California pharmacy within Needles

**Submitted By:** Patrick Martinez, City Manager

**City Manager Approval:** Patrick J. Martinez

**Date:** 3/6/2024

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: 9