



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO (OES)
Department No.: 990
For Agenda Of: 12/23/2008
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 20 minutes
Continued Item:
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief, 681-5526
SUBJECT: **Affirmation of Proclamation of Emergency Associated with Tea Fire**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Reaffirms the ongoing existence of local emergency due to environmental impacts, response and recovery costs from the Tea Fire.
- B. Accepts a verbal report on the status of recovery efforts.

Background:

On November 13, 2008, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed that a State of Emergency existed due to threats posed by the Tea Fire. The Tea Fire ultimately consumed approximately 1,940 acres and preliminary damage estimates are that approximately 211 residences in both the city and the county were destroyed. As a result of this damage, Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a State of Emergency; which remains in effect. On November 18, 2008, President Bush declared a major disaster for the southern California wildfires; including Santa Barbara County; which also remains in effect.

The Tea Fire has, like the Gap and Zaca Fires preceding it, caused environmental damage that now poses significant public health and safety risks. The Tea Fire's 1,940 acres of damage has resulted in approximately 67% of the Sycamore Canyon watershed being burned. This often steep and rocky

watershed then empties into the lower eastside of the City of Santa Barbara. Professional staff have voiced very strong concerns over the flooding and debris potentials for this winter.

Because the Tea Fire has occurred close to the 2008-2009 rainy season, staff of the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District have already initiated multiple projects in an attempt to reduce the significant threats posed. These projects include the clearing of debris basins, channel clearing and other actions which staff believe are immediately necessary to protect the public. Working cooperatively with the staff of the City of Santa Barbara staff continue to initiate other projects that are determined vital in reducing the flood threat.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Costs for the Annual Maintenance Plan work located in the burned watershed area were included in the Adopted 2008-09 Budget under the Maintenance cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-336 in the budget book. However, costs for the additional watershed response work caused by the Tea Fire were not included in the Adopted Budget for this Fiscal Year. Flood Control will be returning to the Board to approve a budget revision to allocate costs from designations once estimated costs of the work are known.

Because the Tea Fire is a State proclaimed emergency and a Federally Declared Disaster some of these project costs may be reimbursable through the State Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Additionally, staff have been in contact with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding federal funding that may become available for the initial work. Cost sharing for the local share of the costs for mitigation measures would be shared with the City of Santa Barbara.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send copies of the resolution and minute order of these actions to County OES, Attn: Michael Harris.

Attachments:

Resolution

Authored by:

Michael D. Harris

cc: