



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/OEM  
Department No.: 012  
For Agenda Of: May 8, 2018  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer and Director of  
Director: Emergency Services  
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO  
Robert Lewin, Director of Emergency Management  
**SUBJECT:** Thomas Fire/Storm Incident – Update and Local Proclamation Re-Ratification

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: NA

**Recommended Actions:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution re-ratifying the Proclamations of Local Emergencies related to the Thomas Fire and subsequent Storm Emergency declared by the Director of Emergency Services on December 8, 2017, and January 8, 2018, respectively, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, pursuant to Government Code Section 8550 et. seq. and Chapter 12, Section 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code, now combined and re-named Thomas Fire/Storm Incident; and
- b) Direct the Office of Emergency Management to return monthly for re-ratification of the Emergency until such time that the response and recovery conditions dictate otherwise; and
- c) Determine the above actions are not a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the actions consist of organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The Thomas Fire began in Ventura County in December 4, 2017 and shortly thereafter spread to the County of Santa Barbara. The Thomas Fire is the largest in the history of California and caused power outages, widespread damage and destruction, extensive smoke and ash, and created hazardous air quality.

Mandatory and voluntary evacuation orders were made throughout the County. Due to the Thomas Fire Emergency, the County of Santa Barbara declared a local emergency which was ratified and re-ratified by the Board of Supervisors as required by California law.

Subsequently, the County of Santa Barbara experienced unprecedented rainfall. Rainfall from the storm over the Thomas Fire burn area caused massive mud and debris flows leading to numerous deaths, further destruction and damage of public and private property, closure of State and local roads, and displacement of residents and businesses. Due to the impending Storm Emergency, the County of Santa Barbara declared another local emergency which was ratified by the Board of Supervisors as required by California law.

The President and Governor Brown issued and amended emergency proclamations, declarations, and/or executive orders that consolidated the Thomas Fire and Storm Incident.

This resolution (Attachment A) re-ratifies the combined Local Emergency proclamation.

### **Background**

On December 4, 2017, at 1825 hours, the Thomas Fire began burning in Ventura County. The first impact to Santa Barbara County was extensive power outages in the South County, which affected 83,000 customers. Periodic power outages continued as a result of burn damage to the electric transmission lines. On December 5, 2017, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency for the County of Ventura for the Thomas Fire, and on December 7, 2017, the Governor added the County of Santa Barbara to the State of Emergency.

Mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings were initially issued for portions of the County on December 7, 2017. Extensive smoke and ash created hazardous air quality, which led to the closure of most South County schools on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Many schools elected to remain closed and recessed early into their holiday break.

On December 8, 2017, the President proclaimed a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura. The Presidential Declaration included support for response activities of the federal, state and local government.

On December 8, 2017, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, the County Executive Officer, as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to the damage caused by the local emergency and receive any needed funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act and any other funding for both State and Federal funds that may be available. The proclamation was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2017, and covers the Santa Barbara County Operational Area (i.e., entire geographic area of the county), including cities, unincorporated county areas, and special districts. The local emergency was re-ratified on January 9, 2018.

On December 20, 2017, the Santa Barbara County Health Officer and Public Health Director declared a Local Health Emergency and Order Prohibiting the Endangerment of the Community Through the Unsafe Removal, Transport, and Disposal of Fire Debris. This Local Health Emergency was re-ratified within each fourteen days in accordance with Health and Safety Code, section 101080 until Governor Brown waived the requirement on January 12, 2018.



On January 2, 2018, the President declared a Major Disaster for the State of California, as a result of wildfires, including the Thomas Fire.

On January 7, 2018, mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings were issued for portions of the County due to the anticipated Storm.

On January 8, 2018, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Santa Barbara proclaimed the existence of a local emergency within Santa Barbara County as a result of the forecasted Storm. The proclamation was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on January 9, 2018.

On January 9, 2018, the Thomas Fire was only 92% contained, and the County of Santa Barbara experienced an extreme rain event that resulted in several massive debris flows below the Thomas Fire burn scar. The debris flows captured boulders and debris that led to at least 21 deaths, missing and injured persons, destruction of property, and displacement of residents and businesses.

On January 11, 2018, FEMA granted the State's request for expanded federal disaster aid for the mudflows that occurred as a result of the Thomas Fire. The Presidential Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include flooding, mudflows, and debris flows directly related to the compromised watershed as a result of wildfires and to include individual assistance.

On January 12, 2018, the Thomas Fire was 100% contained having burnt 281,893 acres in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. It burned significant portions of Santa Barbara County's critical watershed and damaged or destroyed over 80 structures in Santa Barbara County.

On January 12, 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-46-18 to further assist recovery efforts related to the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides.

The attached resolution (Attachment A) re-ratifies the combined Local Emergency proclamation issued for the Thomas Fire and for the Storm Incident.

As recovery efforts are ongoing, potential future storms may cause additional mud and debris flows leading to more damage to homes, properties, businesses, local roadways and bridges, and potential road closures.

To date, 21 victims have been identified and their bodies recovered. Two individuals remain missing.

On January 27, 2018, full repopulation occurred.

On February 8, 2018, the Boil Water Notice for Montecito Water District's customers was lifted.

On February 10/11, 2018, the County held the first private property clean-up event. Approximately 400 volunteers were engaged in assisting local property owners in partially clearing their properties.

County staff continue to work to compile damage assessment information and inspect homes. Initially, 246 properties were posted as "Red" and 160 "Yellow". As of April 16, 2018, 177 properties remain

red-tagged, 156 remain yellow-tagged and 294 remain green-tagged. The County has developed an interactive Red, Yellow, and Green tagged properties map at ReadySBC.gov.

On February 28, 2018, new storm activity caused an evacuation of approximately 21,000 people in the debris flow risk areas. Fire, law enforcement, public works and Emergency Operations Center personnel were activated during the storm. Full repopulation occurred on March 2, 2018. The County is compiling Initial Damage Estimates (IDE) for costs incurred as a result of that event.

On March 3, 2018, the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) closed. The DRC included numerous public and private partners from local, state and federal agencies and organizations and provided assistance to 255 impacted families between February 3 and March 5, 2018 (DRC reception cumulative total = 776).

On March 5, 2018, the County opened the Montecito Center for Preparedness, Recovery, and Rebuilding at 1283 Coast Village Circle in Montecito and the Small Business Association opened a Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) in the Nursery Room at Calvary Chapel Santa Barbara.

On March 5, 2018, the County launched a materials exchange website to assist the public, facilitate the sharing of material deposited by the debris flows, and limit the amount of debris going into the landfills. The website is located at <http://sbcountymaterialexchange.com/>.

On March 12, 2018, new storm activity caused an evacuation of approximately 5,000 people in the debris flow risk areas. Fire, law enforcement, public works and Emergency Operations Center personnel were activated during the storm. Full repopulation occurred on March 13, 2018. The County is compiling Initial Damage Estimates (IDE) for costs incurred as a result of that event.

On March 19, 2018, new storm activity caused an evacuation of approximately 21,000 people in the debris flow risk areas. Fire, law enforcement, public works and Emergency Operations Center personnel were activated during the storm. Full repopulation occurred on March 22, 2018. The County is compiling Initial Damage Estimates (IDE) for costs incurred as a result of that event.

As of April 16 2018, 11 of 11 debris basins have been cleared and 328,013 cubic yards of debris have been removed (100% complete). An additional 65,307 cubic yards of material has been removed from creeks (100% complete) and 93,313 cubic yards of material has been removed from public right of ways and select channels.

All County roads are open, with the exception of several hard closure accesses to the Declared Disaster Zones or at unusable bridges. Testing, planning, and designing the replacement bridge structures are underway.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The fiscal impact of efforts in support of this incident is being evaluated at this time and will be reported to the Board at future meetings.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order to: Office of Emergency Management, Attn: Sonia Thompson, Department Business Specialist

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Resolution

**Authored by:**

Robert Lewin, Director of Office of Emergency Management

**CC:**

Eric Peterson, Fire Chief

Bill Brown, Sheriff

# ATTACHMENT A

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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF RE-RATIFYING  
LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATIONS,  
FOR THE THOMAS FIRE/STORM  
INCIDENT**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, On December 4, 2017, at 1825, a wildfire that has been named the Thomas Fire, began burning in Ventura County. Later that night, Santa Barbara County experienced wide-spread power outages, which impacted 83,000 customers. The main Southern California Edison transmission lines were compromised by the fire. On December 7, 2017, mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings were issued, as the Thomas Fire approached the southeast portion of the County. Extensive smoke and ash created hazardous air quality that led to the closure of most South County schools on December 7th and 8th. Many schools elected to remain closed and recessed early into their holiday break. The Thomas Fire crossed into Santa Barbara County on December 9, 2017. Evacuation centers were opened for residents and for animals; and

**WHEREAS**, On December 5, 2017, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency for the County of Ventura as a result of the Thomas Fire, and on December 7, 2017 the Governor added the County of Santa Barbara to the State of Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, On December 8, 2017, the President proclaimed a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura; and

**WHEREAS**, On December 8, 2017, the County Executive Officer, as the Director of Emergency Services, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, proclaimed a local emergency due to the Thomas Fire. This local proclamation was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2017 and re-ratified on January 9, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, On December 20, 2017, the Santa Barbara County Health Officer and Public Health Director declared a Local Health Emergency and Order Prohibiting the Endangerment of the Community Through the Unsafe Removal, Transport, and Disposal of Fire Debris. This Local Health Emergency was re-ratified within each fourteen days in

Resolution Re-Ratifying Proclamation of Local Emergency  
For the Thomas Fire/Storm Incident

accordance with Health and Safety Code, section 101080 until Governor Brown waived the requirement on January 12, 2018 ; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 2, 2018, the President declared a major disaster for the State of California, as a result of several California wildfires, including the Thomas Fire, pursuant to his authority under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. No. 93-288 (1974) (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.*) (Stafford Act); and

**WHEREAS**, On January 7, 2018, due to imminent forecasted storms, mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings were issued to alert over 25,000 residents living in flood and debris prone areas of the need to evacuate areas by noon on January 8, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 8, 2018, a series of storms (“Storms”) began impacting Santa Barbara County, including areas that were burned by the Thomas Fire; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 8, 2018, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, pursuant to Government Code, Section 8558 and 8630, *et seq.*, and Chapter 12 of the Santa Barbara County Code the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Santa Barbara proclaimed the existence of a local emergency within Santa Barbara County as a result of the Storms. The Board of Supervisors ratified the local emergency for the Storms incident on January 9, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 9, 2018, the Thomas Fire was only 92% contained, and the County of Santa Barbara experienced an extreme rain event that resulted in several massive mudflows below the Thomas Fire burn scar. The mudflows carried boulders and debris that led to at least 21 deaths, missing and injured persons, destruction of property, and displacement of residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, The mudflows, comprised of boulders, debris, and mud, caused numerous deaths, destruction and damage of public and private property, displacement of residents and businesses, and closure of Highway 101, State Route 192, and many streets and major thoroughfares; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 11, 2018, FEMA granted the State’s request for expanded federal disaster aid for the mudflows that occurred as a result of the Thomas Fire; and



Resolution Re-Ratifying Proclamation of Local Emergency  
For the Thomas Fire/Storm Incident

**WHEREAS**, On January 12, 2018, the Thomas Fire was 100% contained having burnt 281,893 acres in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. It burned significant portions of Santa Barbara County's critical watershed and damaged or destroyed over 80 structures in Santa Barbara County; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 12, 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-46-18 to further assist recovery efforts related to the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 15, 2018, FEMA approved Individual Assistance and the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration was expanded to include January 9, 2018, flooding, mudflows, and debris flows directly related to the compromised watershed as a result of the wildfires; and

**WHEREAS**, As of January 27, 2018, the Storm is reported to have destroyed or damaged 550 structures; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 28, 2018, new storm activity caused an evacuation of approximately 21,000 people in the debris flow risk areas. Fire, law enforcement, public works and Emergency Operations Center personnel were activated during the storm. Full repopulation occurred on March 2, 2018. The County is compiling Initial Damage Estimates (IDE) for costs incurred as a result of that event.

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2018, new storm activity caused an evacuation of approximately 5,000 people in the debris flow risk areas. Fire, law enforcement, public works and Emergency Operations Center personnel were activated during the storm. Full repopulation occurred on March 13, 2018. The County is compiling Initial Damage Estimates (IDE) for costs incurred as a result of that event.

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2018, new storm activity caused an evacuation of approximately 21,000 people in the debris flow risk areas. Fire, law enforcement, public works and Emergency Operations Center personnel were activated during the storm. Full repopulation occurred on March 22, 2018. The County is compiling Initial Damage Estimates (IDE) for costs incurred as a result of that event.

**WHEREAS**, The Thomas Fire/Storm Incident caused conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara, which are beyond the

Resolution Re-Ratifying Proclamation of Local Emergency  
For the Thomas Fire/Storm Incident

control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

**WHEREAS**, Recovery efforts are ongoing, potential future storms may cause additional mud and debris flow leading to more damage to homes, properties, businesses, local roadways and bridges, and potential road closures.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that the conditions warranting the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by the Thomas Fire and subsequent Storms and debris flow continue to exist and the Proclamation of the Local Emergency Caused by Thomas Fire/Storm Incident shall remain in place; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that the local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, California.

Resolution Re-Ratifying Proclamation of Local Emergency  
For the Thomas Fire/Storm Incident

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 8th day of May, 2018 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

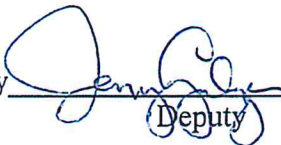
ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAS WILLIAMS, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:  
MONA MIYASATO  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
ROBERT LEWIN  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By  \_\_\_\_\_