

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

**Nm Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** January , 2004  
**Department Name:** County Administrator  
**Department No.:** 0130  
**Agenda Date:** January 27, 2004 - Ongoing 14 day term  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michael F. Brown  
County Administrator

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bruce Carter, OES Manager 681-5559

**SUBJECT:** Continuing Declaration of a Local Emergency Relating to the December 22, 2003 San Simeon Earthquake Emergency for the County of Santa Barbara

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve the continued Local Emergency, Resolution Number 03-384, due to the ongoing earthquake emergency resulting from the December 22, 2003 San Simeon Earthquake.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

*The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2; Ensure the Public Health and Safety and Provide Essential Infrastructure.*

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On December 22, 2003 at or about 11:16 a.m. a magnitude 6.5 earthquake occurred near San Simeon in San Luis Obispo County (San Simeon Earthquake). This earthquake and the continuing aftershocks have been and are felt throughout Santa Barbara County, particularly in the northern portions of the County. Public and private damages are still being reported.

On December 24, 2003, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, Director of Emergency Services Michael F. Brown, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency for Santa Barbara County in connection with the December 22, 2003 San Simeon Earthquake and continuing aftershocks. Additionally, Mr. Brown requested Governor Schwarzenegger to proclaim the County of Santa Barbara to be in a State of Emergency

and to seek a Presidential Declaration of Emergency from the President of the United States. On December 29, 2003, your Board approved a resolution # 03-384 ratifying this act and proclaiming the existence of a local emergency relative to the continuing earthquake emergency and seeking both a State and Presidential Declaration of Emergency. On December 31, 2003, Lieutenant Governor Cruz M. Bustamante, acting in Governor Schwarzenegger's absence, proclaimed the County of Santa Barbara to be in a State of Emergency.

On January 13, 2004 President George Bush proclaimed the County of Santa Barbara to be a major disaster but only provided for federal disaster funds to local governments (Public Assistance) and not to individuals and very limited assistance to businesses. Local governments are eligible for costs associated with debris removal, emergency services related to the earthquake, and the restoration of damaged public property.

The resolution provides that the local emergency shall continue in effect until the Board of Supervisors proclaims its termination, and that the need for the proclamation of a local emergency be reviewed every fourteen (14) days.

Staff recommends that the Board continue its declaration of the local emergency in that earthquake related damages are still being evaluated.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

No change in programs or service level.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no direct fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of these recommendations. However, adoption makes the County eligible for state disaster relief funds otherwise not available.

**Concurrence:**

Public Works

County Counsel

Auditor Controller