

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Nm Agenda Number:
Prepared on: February 11, 2004
Department Name: County Administrator
Department No.: 0130
Agenda Date: February 24, 2004 - Ongoing 14 day term
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Administrator

STAFF CONTACT: Bruce Carter, OES Manager 681-5559

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

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. As discussed in more detail below, the County's request for reconsideration of additional federal disaster assistance programs is currently pending before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as discussed below.

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.

On February 2, 2004 the County's Office of Emergency Services received a formal request from the Cities of Guadalupe and Santa Maria that the County, on their behalf, pursue a Request for Reconsideration to amend the January 13, 2004 Presidential Disaster Declaration and also include federal Individual Assistance for Santa Barbara County for damages suffered in connection with the December 22, 2003 San Simeon Earthquake and continuing aftershocks. A request for reconsideration must be made to the President within 30 days of the Presidential Disaster Declaration (no later than February 11, 2004).

On February 4, 2004, the County submitted to the State a formal request for reconsideration of the Presidential Disaster Declaration to include the same federal disaster assistance, including Public Assistance, Individual Assistance and Small Business Administration funding programs, as was granted to San Luis Obispo County agencies, businesses and private residents.

Upon receipt of the County's request, the State sent damage assessment teams to survey the damage reports contained in the County's letter. Based on their assessment, the State then forwarded on February 10, 2004 the County's request to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As of February 11, 2004 the County's request is still pending before FEMA. We anticipate FEMA's decision in 1-2 weeks.

On Tuesday, February 10th the County was advised that FEMA had closed the incident period for San Simeon Earthquake effective February 6, 2004. The County of San Luis Obispo which received a full Presidential Disaster Declaration (including both Public and Individual Assistance programs) terminated its Local Emergency on February 10th.

County Counsel has recommended that we continue the Local Emergency as long as the appeal to FEMA remains pending. 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 is reviewed every fourteen (14) days.

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.

Special Instructions:

None

Concurrence:

Public Works

County Counsel

Auditor Controller