



PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES ALAMO AND WHITTIER FIRES

WHEREAS, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code, empowers the County of Santa Barbara, Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Section 8558 (c) of the Government Code defines a "Local Emergency" as: "the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, On July 6, 2017, a wildfire that has been named the Alamo Fire began burning in San Luis Obispo County and on July 7, 2017 at approximately 1500 hours it crossed into Santa Barbara County near Twitchell Reservoir. As of July 16, 2017, at 0900 hours, the Alamo Fire had grown to approximately 29,000 acres and was at 95% containment with evacuation orders reduced to warnings and road closures lifted; and

WHEREAS, On July 8, 2017, at approximately 1342 hours a wildfire, that has been named the Whittier Fire, started burning near Lake Cachuma. As of July 16, 2017 at 0900 hours, the Whittier Fire has grown to over 18,000 acres. Evacuation orders and warnings are in effect, and roads near the fire remain closed; and

WHEREAS, The existence of two fires of size and complexity that required Type 1 Incident Management Teams occurring simultaneously within the County is unique and unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, Both incidents have resulted in loss and damage to structures, agriculture, infrastructure, recreational areas and facilities, critical watersheds (such as Twitchell and Cachuma) and other property in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, The Whittier Fire, at 36% containment after one week, continues to be a threat to critical infrastructure (including 220 KV power lines) and homes, and has caused conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara. These conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

WHEREAS, The Director of Emergency Services finds that these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence or threatened existence of 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 both State and Federal funds that may be available;

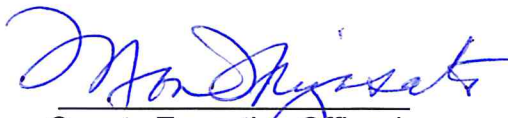
WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is not in session.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists in the County of Santa Barbara and that;

1. All the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. This proclamation of local emergency, invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8550 et seq.), Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12 and all other applicable laws, to be used by authorized personnel of the County of Santa Barbara; and
4. Pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(b), the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to require emergency services of any county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any county department or agency; and
5. Copies of this Proclamation shall be provided to news media; and
6. A copy of this proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with the state law; that the Governor waive any regulations that may hinder recovery efforts and that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other State and Federal funds that may be available; and
7. This Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors, and extended, or unless sooner terminated.

Dated: 7-16-17

Time: 2:30 pm


County Executive Officer/
Director of Emergency Services
County of Santa Barbara