



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: October 17, 2017
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director
Contact Info: Matt Pontes, Assistant CEO
Robert Lewin, Director of Emergency Management
SUBJECT: Re-ratification of the Alamo & Whittier Fire Emergency Proclamation – Last Action September 19, 2017

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution in accordance with Government Code Section 8630(c), Re-ratifying the Proclamation of a Local Emergency related to the Alamo & Whittier Fire Emergency declared by the Director of Emergency Services on July 16, 2017, and initially ratified by the Board of Supervisors on July 18, 2017;
- 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:

This item is on the agenda to re-ratify the Proclamation of a Local Emergency that was initially ratified on July 18, 2017.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

On Sunday, July 16, 2017, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, the County Executive Officer, as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed a local emergency due to the Alamo and Whittier Fires. On the same date, the Governor of California also declared a State of Emergency in Santa Barbara County due to the Alamo and Whittier Fires.

This action is necessary to continue the proclaimed local emergency for 30 days.

BACKGROUND

On July 6, 2017, 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. The Alamo Fire was contained at a total of 28,687 acres. On July 8, 2017, at approximately 1342 hours the Whittier Fire started burning near Lake Cachuma.

The existence of two fires of the size and complexity that required Type 1 Incident Management Teams occurring within the County simultaneously is unique and unprecedented. Incident Management Teams are federally certified and are deployed to manage incidents of national significance.

Damage assessment is conducted by County staff using a new software application called Fulcrum. Both incidents have resulted in loss and damage to structures, agriculture, infrastructure, recreational areas and facilities, critical watersheds and other property in the County. The Whittier Fire destroyed sixteen (16) residences and damaged one (1) and destroyed thirty (30) outbuildings and damaged six (6). The Alamo Fire destroyed two (2) residences, damaged one (1), and destroyed twelve (12) outbuildings.

On July 16, 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 State or Federal funds that may be available; the proclamation was effective for a period of seven days unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors. On July 18, 2017, the Board of Supervisors ratified the Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the Alamo and Whittier Fires. On September 19, 2017 the Board of Supervisors re-ratified the Proclamation of Local Emergency consistent with the 30 day re-ratification requirement.

The Proclamation of Local Emergency covers the Santa Barbara County Operational Area, which is the entire geographic area of the county, including cities, unincorporated county areas, and special districts. County staff is working within the Operational Area to compile a preliminary damage assessment.

The Governor's Office on July 16th declared a State of Emergency for these fires. With the Governor's proclamation, our region is seeking reimbursement for costs directly related to and in support of the fire event. Re-ratifying the Proclamation for a Local Emergency due to the Alamo and Whittier Fires is consistent with the Governor's Declaration.

On July 25th the Los Padres National Forest assembled a Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team to survey the burn area for potential impacts caused by the Whittier Fire that could affect life, safety, infrastructure, the environment and the Cachuma watershed. This information was provided to

local stakeholders at a meeting in the County EOC on August 3rd. On August 29th this information was also presented to the Board of Supervisors. A contingency plan has been developed for all the burn areas in anticipation of potential flash floods and debris flows resulting from the four fires that occurred this year and last year; Sherpa, Rey, Whittier and Alamo. Public Works has installed Flash Flood/Debris Flow warning signs in some areas that maybe threatened. Efforts continue to look for mitigation methods. Therefore, it is prudent to re-ratify this proclamation during this period while burn area mitigation efforts are planned or underway that may reduce the impact to the watershed.

Unfortunately, costs related to private property damage cannot be reimbursed through this process.

Fiscal Analysis:

Costs directly related to firefighting efforts are reimbursed by the incidents, and therefore largely covered by CAL FIRE and the US Forest Service.

County OEM is accumulating personnel and equipment costs and damages for submittal to the State OES for possible partial reimbursement.

Special Instructions:

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

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency

Attachment B: Proclamation of Local Emergency for Alamo and Whittier Fires

Authored by:

Robert Lewin, OEM Director

cc:

Eric Peterson, Fire Chief

Bill Brown, Sheriff