



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: 07/25/2017
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
 Elsa Arndt, Deputy Director of Emergency Management
SUBJECT: **Re-ratification of the Alamo & Whittier Fire Emergency Proclamation – Last
 Action July 18, 2017**

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 Proclamation of a Local Emergency related to the Alamo & Whittier Fire Emergency declared by the Director of Emergency Services on July 16, 2017, and was formally ratified by the Board of Supervisors on July 18, 2017, pursuant to Government Code Section 8550 et. seq. and Chapter 12, Section 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code;
- 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.

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

Re-ratifying the Proclamation for a Local Emergency due to the Alamo and Whittier Fires falls in line with the Governor's Declaration.

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. 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 had grown to over 18,000 acres. Evacuation orders and warnings remain in effect, and roads near the fire remain closed.

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.

Both incidents have resulted in loss and damage to structures, agriculture, infrastructure, recreational areas and facilities, critical watersheds and other property in the County. 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.

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 funding both State and 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.

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 has declared a State of Emergency for these events. With the Governor's proclamation, our region could seek reimbursement for costs directly related to and in support of the fire event. 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 CalFire and the US Forest Service.

The CEO established a project code for tracking staffing costs and time associated with the fire activities. As of July 18, the pay period had not closed; therefore, there are no reported costs at this time. An updated fiscal analysis will be provided at the next 30 day report to the BOS.

Special Instructions:

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

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency
Attachment B: Proclamation of Local Emergency for Alamo and Whittier Fires

Authored by:

Elsa Arndt, OEM Deputy Director

cc:

Matt Pontes, County Executive Office
Eric Peterson, Fire Chief
Bill Brown, Sheriff