



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: Executive Office
Department No.:
For Agenda Of: August 14, 2007
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 10 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer

Contact Info: Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief

SUBJECT: Continuing Declaration of Local Emergency Associated with Zaca Fire

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions: Reaffirm the ongoing existence of the Local Emergency due to the Zaca Fire.

Summary Text:

Government Code Section 8630(c)(2) mandates the Board to review the need for continuing a local emergency at least every 14 days, until the local emergency is terminated.

Background:

On **July 4, 2007** a wildfire, now known as the Zaca Fire, was ignited north of Los Olivos, and east of Foxen Canyon Road. The Zaca Fire has created conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in Santa Barbara County. On August 3, 2007 the Zaca Fire had grown to over 38,000 acres and was threatening populated areas, which necessitated mandatory evacuations. At 1425 hours, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, County Executive Officer Michael Brown, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency due to conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by the Zaca Fire and ordered a copy of the proclamation forwarded to the State Director of Emergency Services and the Governor of California with a request that the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency.

At the direction of Chair Brooks Firestone, an emergency meeting of the Board of Supervisors was convened at 1600 hours, at the Emergency Operations Center, to consider ratification of the local emergency. The proclamation of the local emergency was ratified by the Board and memorialized in Resolution 07-277. (Resolution attached).

Near the conclusion of the emergency meeting, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger visited the Emergency Operations Center to receive a first hand briefing on the Zaca Fire. After the briefing, the Governor signed a declaration proclaiming Santa Barbara County to be in a State of Emergency due to the Zaca Fire. The State of Emergency remains in effect.

As of August 9, 2007, the Zaca Fire had burned approximately 74,000 Acres. The fire was 72 percent contained, with 100 percent containment not expected until September 7, 2007.

Extensive resources have been called upon to battle this wildfire including: 68 hand crews; 18 Dozers; 105 Engines; 38 Water Tenders; 14 Helicopters; 8 Air Tankers; 2 Air Attack Aircraft;

Total fire personnel devoted to this fire is 2,411.

The estimated cost-to-date for battling this fire is \$56.8 million.

Plans are being developed to address the possible contingency of the fire moving toward populated areas in the mountainous communities along Highway 154 and the communities along the south coast from Goleta to Carpinteria.

A local emergency shall continue in effect until the Board of Supervisors proclaims its termination.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Not yet calculated

Budgeted: No

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

cc: Auditor-Controller
Fire Chief