



**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  
**Department No.:** 012  
**For Agenda Of:** February 06, 2024  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5th

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Wade Horton, Assistant County Executive Officer  
Kelly Hubbard, Director of Office of Emergency Management  
**SUBJECT:** **Ratification of Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by the February 2024 Storm, All Supervisorial Districts**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: NA

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: NA

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Find that due to a series of storms that began on January 31, 2024 (“February 2024 Storm”), an emergency situation exists pursuant to Government Code sections 54954.2 and 54956.5 that requires immediate action, with need for action following posting of the agenda for this meeting (4/5 vote required); and
- b) Receive an update on the February 2024 Storm and its potential impacts on specific areas of the County; and
- c) Adopt a Resolution ratifying the Proclamation of Emergency declared by the Director of Emergency Services on February 04, 2024 when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, pursuant to Government Code Section 8550 et seq. and Chapter 12, Section 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code; and
- d) Direct the Office of Emergency Management to return every sixty (60) days for ratification of the emergency until such time that conditions dictate otherwise; and
- e) Determine that these actions are exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15269.

**Summary Text:**

This item is to receive an update and adopt a Resolution ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency related to the February 2024 Storm declared by the Director of Emergency Services on February 04, 2024. Because immediate action is required and this incident arose following agenda posting, a 4/5 vote is required to hear the item.

Heavy rainstorms fell February 4, 2024 for a period of 48 hours, preceded by an earlier storm that occurred January 31 to February 1, 2024. The February 4, 2024 storm resulted in heavy rain, flooding, and high winds, with the heaviest rainfall in the southern part of the County. The rains resulted in the potential for life threatening and damaging flooding in existing burn scar areas, near impacted creeks and low-lying areas, as a result of the storms and saturated soils.

On February 02, 2024 the National Weather Service issued a Flood Watch, as well as a High Wind Warning for potentially damaging winds that could result in downed trees, power lines, and dangerous seas.

On February 2, 2024, the County issued an Evacuation Warning to vulnerable areas related to the Thomas Fire Storm Risk Considerations Map, the Cave Fire and Alisal Fire burn scar areas, as well as properties in the vicinity of Sycamore Creek, from Stanwood Drive to parts of Ninon Drive, in the City of Santa Barbara. On February 3, 2024, an Evacuation Order was issued for those areas, as well as California State Park's campgrounds within the County, including Refugio, Carpinteria, Gaviota, and El Capitan. These actions were issued as a result of the immediate flooding threat.

In addition, on February 4, 2024, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in eight impacted counties including Santa Barbara County.

This storm was predicted to cause conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara. These conditions are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat. These conditions warranted and necessitated 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 that will likely be caused by this storm, and receive assistance from the State and Federal governments.

**Background:**

The Director of Emergency Services issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara, as evidenced by a Flood Watch, Countywide Flash Flood Warnings, and High Wind Warning issued by the National Weather Service and the protective actions by the Sheriff's Office. Government Code section 8630(b) requires the Board of Supervisors to ratify a Local Emergency within seven days. Section 8630(c) requires the Board to review the need for the continued existence of the Local Emergency at least every 60 days, and Section 8630(d) requires termination of the Local Emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

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**Fiscal Analysis:**

The fiscal impacts in support of this emergency are unknown at this time. Efforts are ongoing and being evaluated and will be reported to the Board at a future meeting as costs and damage are assessed. By way of comparison, the January 9, 2023 Storm resulted in estimated costs of \$83 million in emergency protective measures and permanent work.

**Staffing Impacts:**

To be determined.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the following:  
Office of Emergency Management, Attn: Kendall Johnston

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Proclamation of Local Emergency for the February 2024 Storm

Attachment B: Resolution Ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency for the February 2024 Storm

**Authored by:**

Wade Horton, Assistant County Executive Officer