

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF TERMINATING THE
PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF
A LOCAL EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE
JANUARY 2023 STORM AND SUBSEQUENT
2023 WINTER STORMS**

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, Government Code, Sections 8558 and 8630, *et seq.*, and Chapter 12 of the Santa Barbara County Code empower the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arose within the County of Santa Barbara (“County”) on January 9, 2023 due to a series of storms that began January 4, 2023 (“January 2023 Storm”); and

WHEREAS, heavy rainstorms fell January 4 and 5, 2023, and began again countywide Wednesday, January 9, and were expected to continue until Thursday, January 10, 2023, with the heaviest rainfall expected on the South Coast; and

WHEREAS, an atmospheric river system brought heavy rain and high winds across the County January 4, 2023 through January 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, these rainstorms resulted in heavy rain, flooding, storm surge, coastal erosion, high winds, landslides, and debris flows in existing fire burn scar areas and impacts countywide; and

WHEREAS, the January 2023 Storm posed a serious risk of rock falls, flooding, and landslides across the County, as well as debris flows in the Thomas, Cave, and Alisal Fire burn areas, impacting residences, agricultural and ranching land, private and non-profit facilities, recreational facilities, roads, and critical infrastructure countywide; and

WHEREAS, between January 3-15, 2023, the National Weather Service issued wind, high surf, coastal flood, and flood advisories, watches and warnings, as well as high wind warnings advising of the potential for damaging winds that may potentially impact trees and power lines. On January 4, 2023, the National Weather Service advised the County Storm Risk Decision Team of the likelihood to issue a Flood Watch due to heavy rainstorms and issued multiple such notifications on January 5, 2023. And, in total issued an estimated 215 notifications regarding potential impacts to Santa Barbara County during this time; and

Resolution Terminating the Proclamation of Local Emergency
Caused by the January 2023 Storm and Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2023, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist throughout California; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2023, at 11:00 AM a Shelter In Place was ordered for the Thomas, Cave, Alisal burn scar areas of concern and protective actions were issued across Santa Barbara County to protect life and property. The actions were issued as a result of immediate threats for flooding, debris flows and a Flash Flood Warnings issued for a significant portion of the County; and

WHEREAS, between January 3 through 15, 2023 protective actions, including evacuation warning, evacuation order, and shelter in place were issued to protect life and property as the result of immediate threats from coastal erosion, flooding, road conditions, landslides and debris flows to protect life and property as the result of immediate threats for flooding and debris flows; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2023, the President of the United States declared a Major Disaster to exist in many counties throughout California, including the County of Santa Barbara between December 27, 2022 and January 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, between February 23 through March 2, 2023 the County experienced another series of storms, that included NWS notifications for Winter Weather, Wind, and Flood Advisories, as well as Tornado Warnings, Thunderstorms, Flash Flood Warnings, and Blizzards.

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2023 the County was notified that the Bradbury Dam was going to release significantly more water than expected during heavy rains causing the potential for life threatening flooding downstream; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2023, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist Amador, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Sonoma, and Tulare counties due to severe winter storms; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2023, the President of the United States declared an Emergency to exist in 34 counties, including the County of Santa Barbara starting on March 9, 2023. This March 10th Declaration authorized Public Assistance for Category B Emergency Protective Measures; and

WHEREAS, between March 13 through March 15, 2023 the County experienced another significant storm that included NWS notifications for regarding the potential for high winds, flooding, river flooding and mudflows; and

WHEREAS, multiple smaller storms, including January 29-30, February 13-15, and March 9-10, 2023 also impacted the County contributing to localized flooding, winter storm warnings, freezes and general impacts to the County's recovery; and

Resolution Terminating the Proclamation of Local Emergency
Caused by the January 2023 Storm and Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2023, the President of the United States declared an Emergency to exist in 11 California counties for storm damage that occurred beginning on February 21, 2023 and continuing. This April 3rd Declaration broadened the assistance and timeframe of the previous Declaration. This April 3rd Declaration was amended on May 25, 2023 to include the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of significant rain, wind, and snow of the above “Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms” contributed to a continuous state of ground saturation, soils and land movement, flooding, expanding or worsening damages to infrastructure, and required releases of water from reservoirs for several months. These conditions all contributed to expansive staffing and response needs, new and enhanced damages to public and private infrastructure, and continued coordination of the Operational Area; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Maria River had the potential to flow outside of its original river channel, creating conditions of immediate and imminent threat from unusual flooding that could cause loss of life and significant damages to residents, farm land, private business, critical infrastructure, and public facilities within, and around, the disadvantaged City of Guadalupe and Guadalupe Dunes. County Public Works conducted debris removal within the Santa Maria River between September 11 to October 27, 2023 to remove roughly 1,000,000 cubic yards of debris and will continue plant restoration installation through early 2024. Despite these efforts, continued coordination with state and federal agencies are required to mitigate and plan for potential future threats that are expected to exceed the capacity of response and recovery services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the Santa Barbara County Operational Area; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2023, the Governor of the State of California issued Executive Order N-10-23 suspending certain laws under the jurisdiction of the Water Board and California Regional Water quality Control Board for activity receiving authorization by the Corps under section 404 of the Clean Water Act in order to protect health, safety, and the environment, and to reduce the risks of local catastrophic flooding from the next rainy season; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2023, these conditions warranted and necessitated that the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed the existence of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to and recover from the local emergency and receive any needed assistance from the State and Federal governments that may be available or become available; and

WHEREAS, the subsequent impacts, damages and losses exceeded the capacity of response and recovery services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the Santa Barbara County Operational

Resolution Terminating the Proclamation of Local Emergency
Caused by the January 2023 Storm and Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms

Area; and

WHEREAS, efforts continue to assist residents, businesses, County Departments, and Operational Area partners in accessing available local, state and federal recovery services and resources, undertake mitigation actions against future storms, and recoup eligible response and recovery costs; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630(c) requires the Board of Supervisors to ratify the proclamation (completed on January 10, 2023) and review the need for the continued existence of a Proclamation of Local Emergency at least every 60 days and Government Code Section 8630(d) requires termination of a Proclamation of Local Emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

WHEREAS, the above conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in Santa Barbara County no longer exist due to winter storms or their impact to infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the conditions warranting a Proclamation of Local Emergency as issued by the Director of Emergency Services with regards to the January 2023 Storm and updated herein to include the Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms no longer exist; and

IT IS ORDERED that the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by the January 2023 Storms and Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms is terminated.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 12th day of December 2023 by the following vote:

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Resolution Terminating the Proclamation of Local Emergency
Caused by the January 2023 Storm and Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

DAS WILLIAMS, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____
Deputy

DocuSigned by:
By Michelle Montes
Deputy County Counsel

KELLY HUBBARD
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By _____
DocuSigned by:
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