

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

**IN THE MATTER OF RE-RATIFYING  
LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATIONS,  
AND COMBINING THE LOCAL  
EMERGENCY ISSUED FOR THE THOMAS  
FIRE AND THE LOCAL EMERGENCY  
ISSUED FOR THE STORMS INCIDENT,  
AND RENAMING THE NOW COMBINED  
EVENT AS THE THOMAS FIRE/STORM  
INCIDENT**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, On December 4, 2017, at 1825, a wildfire that has been named the Thomas Fire, began burning in Ventura County. Later that night, Santa Barbara County experienced wide-spread power outages, which impacted 83,000 customers. The main Southern California Edison transmission lines were compromised by the fire. On December 7, 2017, mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings were issued, as the Thomas Fire approached the southeast portion of the County. Extensive smoke and ash created hazardous air quality that led to the closure of most South County schools on December 7th and 8th. Many schools elected to remain closed and recessed early into their holiday break. The Thomas Fire crossed into Santa Barbara County on December 9, 2017. Evacuation centers were opened for residents and for animals; and

**WHEREAS**, On December 5, 2017, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency for the County of Ventura as a result of the Thomas Fire, and on December 7, 2017 the Governor added the County of Santa Barbara to the State of Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, On December 8, 2017, the President proclaimed a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura; and

**WHEREAS**, On December 8, 2017, the County Executive Officer, as the Director of Emergency Services, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, proclaimed a local emergency due to the Thomas Fire. This local proclamation was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2017 and re-ratified on January 9, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, On December 20, 2017, the Santa Barbara County Health Officer and Public Health Director declared a Local Health Emergency and Order Prohibiting the

Endangerment of the Community Through the Unsafe Removal, Transport, and Disposal of Fire Debris. This Local Health Emergency was re-ratified within each fourteen days in accordance with Health and Safety Code, section 101080 until Governor Brown waived the requirement on January 12, 2018 ; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 2, 2018, the President declared a major disaster for the State of California, as a result of the wildfires (including the Thomas Fire) that occurred December 4, 2017, and continuing, pursuant to his authority under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. No. 93-288 (1974) (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.*) (Stafford Act); and

**WHEREAS**, On January 7, 2018, due to imminent forecasted storms, mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings were issued to alert over 25,000 residents living in flood and debris prone areas of the need to evacuate areas by noon on January 8, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 8, 2018, a series of storms (“Storms”) began impacting Santa Barbara County, including areas that were burned by the Thomas Fire; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 8, 2018, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, pursuant to Government Code, Section 8558 and 8630, *et seq.*, and Chapter 12 of the Santa Barbara County Code the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Santa Barbara proclaimed the existence of a local emergency within Santa Barbara County as a result of the Storms. The Board of Supervisors ratified the local emergency for the Storms incident on January 9, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 9, 2018, the Thomas Fire was only 92% contained, and the County of Santa Barbara experienced an extreme rain event that resulted in several massive mudflows below the Thomas Fire burn scar. The mudflows carried boulders and debris that led to at least 21 deaths, missing and injured persons, destruction of property, and displacement of residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, The mudflows, comprised of boulders, debris, and mud, caused numerous deaths, destruction and damage of public and private property, displacement of residents and businesses, and closure of Highway 101, State Route 192, and many streets and major thoroughfares; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 11, 2018, FEMA granted the State’s request for expanded federal disaster aid for the mudflows that occurred as a result of the Thomas Fire; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 12, 2018, the Thomas Fire was 100% contained having burnt 281,893 acres in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. It burned significant portions of Santa Barbara County’s critical watershed and damaged or destroyed over 80 structures in Santa Barbara County; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 12, 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-46-18 to further assist recovery efforts related to the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 15, 2018, FEMA approved Individual Assistance and the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration was expanded to include January 9, 2018, flooding, mudflows, and debris flows directly related to the compromised watershed as a result of the wildfires; and

**WHEREAS**, As of January 27, 2018, the Thomas Storm is reported to have destroyed or damaged 550 structures; and

**WHEREAS**, The Thomas Fire/Storm incident caused conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara, which are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

**WHEREAS**, As recovery efforts are ongoing, potential future storms may cause additional mud and debris flow leading to more damage to homes, properties, businesses, local roadways and bridges, and potential road closures.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that the conditions warranting the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by the Thomas Fire and subsequent Storms and debris flow continue to exist and the Proclamation of the Local Emergency Caused by Thomas Fire/Storm shall remain in place; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIEMED AND ORDERED** that the Storm Proclamation will be merged into the Thomas Fire conditions Proclamation and they shall be referred to as the “Thomas Fire/Storm Incident;” and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that the local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, California.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 6th day of February, 2018 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAS WILLIAMS, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:  
MONA MIYASATO  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
ROBERT LEWIN  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By \_\_\_\_\_