

**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code, empowers the County of Santa Barbara, Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 8558 (c) of the Government Code defines a "Local Emergency" as: "the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat;" and

**WHEREAS**, On the early morning of September 2, 2019, the Passenger Vessel *Conception*, became engulfed in flames, while the vessel had 39 passengers and crew aboard, and while the vessel was anchored near Santa Cruz Island, within the County of Santa Barbara; and

**WHEREAS**, That fire and the subsequent sinking of the *Conception* about 25 nautical miles away from the Santa Barbara County mainland created extremely challenging on-scene conditions and logistics requirements for multi-agency responses in the mission areas of: search and rescue, recovery, salvage operations, law enforcement, coroner operations, emergency operations center support and pollution prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, As of the signing of this Proclamation, there have been 33 confirmed deaths, the underwater search for one person is still ongoing, and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner has requested specialized personnel and equipment from outside of the Santa Barbara County Operational Area to assist with the recovery and timely and compassionate identification of these people; and

**WHEREAS**, This incident creates conditions of disaster, which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of the Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

**WHEREAS**, These conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim 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 funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act and any other State and Federal funds that may be available or become available;

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is not in session.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** that a local emergency now exists in the County of Santa Barbara from the fire and loss of life involving the Passenger Vessel *Conception* on September 2, 2019; and that:

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PASSENGER VESSEL CONCEPTION  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2019  
PAGE 2 OF 2

1. All the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. The conditions of extreme peril are not the results of labor controversy; and
3. This proclamation of local emergency invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all of the powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8550 et seq.), Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12 and all other applicable laws, to be used by authorized personnel of the County of Santa Barbara; and
4. Pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(b), the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to require emergency services of any county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any county department or agency; and
5. A copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be posted on all outside public access doors of the County Administration Building, and County personnel shall make copies of this Proclamation available to news media; and
6. A copy of this proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with the state law; and that the Governor waive any regulations that may hinder recovery efforts and that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other State and Federal funds that may be available or become available; and
7. This Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors, and extended, or unless sooner terminated.

Dated: 09/05/19

Time: 2:30 pm



Mona Miyasato  
County Executive Officer/  
Director of Emergency Services  
County of Santa Barbara