



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/OEM  
**Department No.:** 012  
**For Agenda Of:** January 9, 2018  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department      Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer and Director of  
Director                  Emergency Services  
Contact Info:          Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO  
                                 Robert Lewin, Director of Emergency Management  
**SUBJECT:**      **Thomas Fire Emergency – Update and Local Proclamation Re-Ratification**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: NA

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: NA

**Recommended Actions:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution re-ratifying the Proclamation of a Local Emergency related to the Thomas Fire Emergency declared by the Director of Emergency Services on December 8, 2017, 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,
- b) Direct the Office of Emergency Management to return monthly for re-ratification of the Emergency until such time that the response and recovery conditions dictate otherwise; and,
- c) Determine the above actions are not a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the actions consist of organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The following is a timeline of events associated with the Thomas Fire:

- On December 4, 2017, the Thomas Fire began burning in Ventura County.

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- On December 5, 2017, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency for the County of Ventura regarding the Thomas Fire.
- On December 7, 2017, Santa Barbara County was added to the State of Emergency declaration.
- On December 8, 2017, President Trump proclaimed a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura.

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. The local proclamation was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2017. The local proclamation remains in effect for 30 days and will terminate unless re-ratified by the Board of Supervisors. The local proclamation is now before the Board of Supervisors for re-ratification.

On December 9, 2017, the Thomas Fire crossed into Santa Barbara County threatening populated areas, necessitating the issuance of mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings. As of December 20, 2017, the Thomas Fire burned 272,000 acres (45,393 acres in Santa Barbara County), with only 60% containment. It has destroyed/damaged dozens of structures.

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.

The Thomas Fire is now the second largest wildfire in California history.

### **BACKGROUND**

On December 4, 2017, at 1825 hours, the Thomas Fire began burning in Ventura County. The first impact to Santa Barbara County was extensive power outages in the South County, which affected 83,000 customers. Periodic power outages have continued, as a result of burn damage to the electric transmission lines. On December 5, 2017, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency for the County of Ventura for the Thomas Fire, and on December 7, 2017 the Governor added the County of Santa Barbara to the State of Emergency.

Mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings were initially issued for portions of the County on December 7, 2017. Extensive smoke and ash created hazardous air quality, which led to the closure of most South County schools December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Many schools elected to remain closed and recessed early into their holiday break.

On December 8, 2017, President Trump proclaimed a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura. The Presidential Declaration supports response activities of the federal, state and local government.

On December 8, 2017, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, the County Executive Officer, as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed a local emergency in order to utilize all resources

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necessary to respond to the damage caused by the local emergency and receive any needed funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act and any other funding both State and Federal funds that may be available. The proclamation was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2017.

The local proclamation covers the Santa Barbara County Operational Area (i.e., entire geographic area of the county), including cities, unincorporated county areas, and special districts.

As of December 20, 2017, the Thomas Fire had burned 272,000 acres (45,393 acres in Santa Barbara County), with only 60% containment. It had destroyed/damaged dozens of structures, and burned thousands of acres in Santa Barbara front country and in the Santa Ynez River watershed. 15,898 residents remained under mandatory evacuation orders and 12,025 residents remained under evacuation warnings, in Santa Barbara County.

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.

At that point it was the second largest wildfire in California history.

County staff is working within the Operational Area to compile a preliminary damage assessment.

### **Fiscal Analysis:**

The fiscal impact of efforts in support of this incident is being evaluated at this time and will be reported to the Board at future meetings.

### **Special Instructions:**

Direct Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order to:  
Office of Emergency Management, Attn: Sonia Thompson, Department Business Specialist

### **Attachments:**

Attachment A: Resolution Re-ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency

### **Authored by:**

Robert Lewin, Director of Office of Emergency Management

### **cc:**

Eric Peterson, Fire Chief  
Bill Brown, Sheriff