

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

**IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAMATION OF
LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE 2025-2026
HOLIDAY STORMS**

Resolution No. _____

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, Government Code section 8558(c) 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, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arose within the County of Santa Barbara (“County”) due to a series of storms that began December 23, 2025 (“2025-2026 Holiday Storms”); and

WHEREAS, multiple rainstorms were forecasted and did occur countywide starting December 23, 2025, to January 3, 2026, with few if any breaks between storm cells or systems; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service issued over 50 hazard statements including high surf advisories, coastal flood advisories, beach hazards, marine warnings, wind advisories, flood watches, flood advisories, flash flood warnings, special weather statements for thunderstorms and river flood notifications; and

WHEREAS, these multiple atmospheric river systems have resulted in heavy rain, flooding, storm surge, coastal erosion, high winds, landslides, and shallow debris flows with impacts countywide; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of these storms have resulted in flooded local roadways, state highways, business communities, state and local parks, and the closure of Santa Barbara Airport; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of these storms have required protective actions, including closure of roads, highways, trails and campgrounds, as well as public emergency notifications for the potential of evacuation and other unsafe conditions; and

WHEREAS, these historic rainfall rates and totals of each storm have required the Operational Area's continued response during, between and after each storm to cascading incidents, including ground saturation, reservoir releases, high creek and river flows, and continued ground movement causing impacts to life and safety; and

WHEREAS, the storms caused flooding and flash flooding resulting in swift water rescues, search and rescue efforts, and at least one storm related death; and

WHEREAS, the 2025/2026 Holiday Storms and their aftermath caused conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara. These conditions required the combined forces of the Santa Barbara County Operational Area, mutual aid, and contract staff to combat and were beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of; and

WHEREAS, these conditions continue to present risk for further damage and risk to life, which may be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warranted and necessitated that the County proclaim the existence of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to and recover from the damages caused by these storms, and receive assistance from the State and Federal governments should they become available; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630(c) requires the Board of Supervisors to 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the proclamation of the existence of an emergency as issued by the Director of Emergency Services with regards to the 2025/2026 Holiday Storms is ratified by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors will review the need for the continued existence of a Proclamation of Local Emergency at least every 60 days; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors shall allow the proclamation to expire or proclaim the termination of the local emergency caused by the 2025/2026 Holiday Storms at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 13th day of January 2026 by the following vote:

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AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

BOB NELSON, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____

By _____
County Counsel

KELLY HUBBARD
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By _____