



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

A-8

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO/Office of
Emergency Services
Department No.: 990
For Agenda Of: 27 January 2009
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
560-1081

SUBJECT: Termination of the Proclamation of a State of Emergency (Tea Fire)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Select Other

As to form: No

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors allow the current Proclamation of a State of an Emergency to expire at 11:59 PM, local time on 27 January 2009.

Summary Text:

A proclamation of a State of Emergency exists when local government believes that, in order to protect the health and safety of its constituents, it must exercise emergency powers. These powers include assisting with citizen movements away from threats, emergency sheltering and support services and obtaining resources outside normal purchasing processes to immediately execute a response. After an emergency, during the recovery phase, the proclamation often continues while local government assists its citizens in their recovery and while local government mitigates any threats posed from the original incident. The Governor may proclaim a State of Emergency to marshal State resources to assist a local government in its response and recovery from an emergency or disaster. A Presidential disaster brings federal resources such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration to assist with individual recovery efforts and reimbursing local governments for some of their costs associated with the disaster.

After a local jurisdiction has fully responded to and, to the fullest extent possible, mitigated the threats caused by the original emergency, a continuing proclamation does little to further serve the jurisdiction's residents. Should another emergency occur, for example from subsequent flooding, a new proclamation or disaster declaration would be in order as the event is a separate incident.

Background:

On November 13, 2008, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed that a State of Emergency existed due to threats posed by the Tea Fire. The Tea Fire ultimately consumed approximately 1,940 acres and preliminary damage estimates are that approximately 211 residences in both the City of Santa Barbara and the county were destroyed. As a result of this damage, Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a State of Emergency; which remains in effect. On November 18, 2008, President Bush declared a major disaster for the southern California wildfires; including Santa Barbara County; which also remains in effect. The County of Santa Barbara has preliminarily submitted approximately \$1.34 million dollars of claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State Office of Emergency Management (Cal EMA) for reimbursement.

The Tea Fire has, like the Gap and Zaca Fires preceding it, caused environmental damage that now poses significant public health and safety risks. The Tea Fire's 1,940 acres of damage has resulted in approximately 67% of the Sycamore Canyon watershed being burned. This often steep and rocky watershed then empties into the lower eastside of the City of Santa Barbara. Professional staff has voiced strong concerns over the flooding and debris potentials for this winter.

In accordance with earlier reports to the Board of Supervisors and the public, county staff has taken the following mitigation measures in an attempt to reduce the flooding & debris flow potentials from the Tea Fire. They are:

- Stream Clearing of approximately 3 miles of Sycamore Creek and its Tributaries
- Installation of a pipe Debris Rack on Chelham Creek;
- Resurrection of the Parma Debris Basin in Parma Park;
- Establishment of a minor Debris on Westmont Creek;
- Installation of an automated Stream Flow Monitoring Station on Sycamore Creek;
- Establishment of Emergency Sand Bag stations at the City of Santa Barbara Public Works Annex, Montecito Fire Station #1, and Montecito Fire Station #2, also temporarily supplied a sand bag station on Mountain Drive;
- Cleaned road culverts on Mountain Drive and Gibraltar Road, including scaling along Gibraltar Road to remove exposed hazardous rock;

- Preparation of a road closure plan, including response by Public Works Maintenance crews to reopen closed roads as soon as possible;
- Procured the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide on site technical assistance to homeowners for recommendations on protection of their property;
- Secured emergency flood fight supply containers from the State Department of Water Resources;
- Secured donated materials from an erosion control vendor for distribution free of charge to affected property owners for erosion control on their property;
- Scaled loose rocks and debris from the slopes along Gibraltar Road;
- Replaced Metal Beam Guardrail at 8 locations along Gibraltar Road and Mountain Drive;
- Replaced timber lagging members that were destroyed on five tie back walls along Gibraltar Road; and
- Removed damaged and burnt trees along Mountain Drive within the Road Right of Way.

In addition to county staffs' activities, staff from the City of Santa Barbara have taken actions within the City of Santa Barbara to reduce threats to downstream residents and valuables.

On an ongoing basis emergency managers from both the county and the city continue to review & update plans associated with the Tea Fire and the Gap Fire watersheds. It is anticipated that these efforts will continue through the 2009-2010 rain season. It cannot be overstated that, despite mitigation efforts taken by staff of the cities and county, the threats of flooding and debris flows remain.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No.

During emergencies and disasters local governments respond in order to protect lives, property and the environment. These responses clearly have associated costs. When a local government proclaims a State of Emergency, it does not generate any reimbursement mechanisms from either State or Federal resources. When the Governor issues a State of Emergency it allows for reimbursements of eligible costs. When the President declares a disaster, or a "major disaster" it increases reimbursements to the affected area; again of eligible costs. Reimbursements for allowable costs associated with the Tea Fire – declared by the President as a major disaster – might be as high as approximately 94% (75% Federal share, 18.75% State share, and 6.25% local share).

The County has submitted claims to the federal government, through the FEMA and Cal EMA. The preliminary request is for approximately \$ 1.34 million. As has occurred in the past, negotiations between FEMA, Cal EMA and the county will then occur to better understand the final amounts. The reimbursement request encompasses costs for response and costs associated with damages to county property. These include:

- EOC Cost (overtime and meals, materials);
- Sheriff and Fire OT (County Fire also pursues other fire reimbursements for its costs);
- Emergency Chopper Flight(s);
- Emergency Creek and Basin/s debris removal;
- Repairs to Gibraltar Rd. Tie Back Walls that were burned out;
- Scaling and debris removal from Gibraltar Rd., and Mountain Drive;
- Guardrail Repairs;
- Emergency Roadway Management (Contracted Traffic Control);
- Resource Recovery Emergency road and debris dumping;
- Public Health Animal Evacuations emergency services, and
- Emergency Home Inspections.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund (6.25%)	\$ 83,750.00		
State (18.75%)	\$ 251,250.00		
Federal (75%)	\$ 1,005,000.00		
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 1,340,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
 N/A

FTEs:
 N/A

Special Instructions:

A minute order should be sent to the Office of Emergency Services, Attn: Michael Harris.

Attachments:

N/A

Authored by:

Michael D. Harris

Cc:

James Armstrong, City Administrator, City of Santa Barbara