

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

**IN THE MATTER OF TERMINATING THE  
PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF  
A LOCAL EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE  
FEBRUARY 2024 STORMS**

**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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**WHEREAS**, Government Code, Sections 8558 and 8630, *et seq.*, and Chapter 12 of the Santa Barbara County Code empower the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning January 31, 2024 a powerful, slow moving, atmospheric river storm system (“February 2024 Storms”) struck California and Santa Barbara County, and was expected to continue for several days threatening life and safety, public and private property and structures, and other critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, heavy rainstorms fell February 4 and 5, 2024, and began again countywide Wednesday, February 17, and were expected to continue until Thursday, February 18, 2024, and

**WHEREAS**, the February 2024 Storm posed a serious risk of rock falls, flooding, and landslides across the County, as well as debris flows in the Thomas, Cave, and Alisal Fire burn areas, impacting residences, agricultural and ranching land, private and non-profit facilities, recreational facilities, roads, and critical infrastructure countywide; and

**WHEREAS**, between January 31 - February 17, 2024, the National Weather Service issued multiple Winter Storm Warnings, including High Wind Warnings, Wind Advisories, and Flood and Flash Flood Warning and Watches throughout the State, including Santa Barbara County, due to impacts from the February 2024 Storms, which included dangerous and life-threatening flooding, landslides, and damaging wind that impacted trees, other large objects, and power lines potentially causing property damage and power outages; and issued multiple such notifications on February 4, 2024. And, in total issued an estimated 120 notifications regarding potential impacts to Santa Barbara County during this time; and

**WHEREAS**, based on National Weather Service predictions, County Public Works and public safety partners initiated response preparations January 25, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service also issued high surf advisories, forecasting coastal flooding, large breaking waves, and dangerous rip currents; and

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Caused by the February 2024 Storms

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office issued Evacuation Warnings that transitioned into Evacuation Orders for approximately 1,214 residents living in flood and debris flow prone areas effective 2:00 pm February 3, 2024, with additional evacuations occurring as needed throughout the County; and

**WHEREAS**, evacuation shelters for residents and animals have been opened; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 4, 2024, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency for the early February 2024 Storms for eight counties, including Santa Barbara; and

**WHEREAS**, these February 2024 Storms are predicted to cause conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara and are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of 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 the needs of community and the damage that will likely be caused by this storm, and to receive assistance from the State and Federal governments should it be requested; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 5, 2024 public safety agencies determined to lift all evacuation orders.

**WHEREAS**, on February 15, 2024 the National Weather Service issued a Flood Watch for the majority of the county, as well as Wind Advisories, High Wind Warnings, and Coastal Flood Advisories were issued in subsequent days for multiple areas of the county;

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and the City of Santa Barbara Police Chief issued Evacuation Warnings for residents living in flood and debris flow prone areas again on February 17, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, all Evacuation Warnings were cancelled between February 19 – 21, 2024, but many roads and areas remained flooded or impassible due to mudslides for a period of time;

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of significant rain and wind of the above "February Storms of 2024" contributed to a continuous state of ground saturation, soils and land movement, flooding, expanding or worsening damages to infrastructure, and required releases of water from reservoirs for several months. These conditions all contributed to expansive staffing and response needs, new and enhanced damages to public and private infrastructure, and continued coordination of the Operational Area; and

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**WHEREAS**, the County and the community continue to experience ongoing impacts from these storms due to ground saturation, slow moving landslides, and ongoing damages; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 5, 2023, these conditions warranted and necessitated that the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed 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 assistance from the State and Federal governments that may be available or become available; and

**WHEREAS**, the subsequent impacts, damages and losses exceeded the capacity of response and recovery services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the Santa Barbara County Operational Area; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts continue to assist residents, businesses, County Departments, and Operational Area partners in accessing available local, state and federal recovery services and resources, undertake mitigation actions against future storms, and recoup eligible response and recovery costs; and

**WHEREAS**, Government Code Section 8630(c) requires the Board of Supervisors to ratify the proclamation (completed on April 2, 2024) and 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.

**WHEREAS**, the above conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in Santa Barbara County no longer exist due to the February 2024 Storms or their impact to infrastructure;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that the conditions warranting a Proclamation of Local Emergency as issued by the Director of Emergency Services with regards to the February 2024 Storms herein to no longer exist; and

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by the February 2024 Storms is terminated.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024 by the following vote:

*[This area intentionally left blank. Signatures on following page.]*

Resolution Terminating the Proclamation of Local Emergency  
Caused by the February 2024 Storms

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE LAVAGNINO, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:  
MONA MIYASATO  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
RACHEL VAN MULLEM  
COUNTY COUNSEL

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

DocuSigned by:  
By Tyler Sprague  
Deputy County Counsel

KELLY HUBBARD  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DocuSigned by:  
By Philip Saunders  
Associate Director