



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

2017 DEC 20 PM 1:30

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Department Name: Public Health  
Department No.: 041  
For Agenda Of: December 21, 2017  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Time: 30 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Public Health Director: Van Do-Reynoso, PhD *WVK*  
805-681-5105  
Contact Info: Susan Klein-Rothschild, MSW  
805-681-5435

**SUBJECT: Ratification of Declaration of Local Health Emergency in Thomas Fire**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Not Applicable

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Not Applicable

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- a) Adopt a resolution ratifying a declaration by the Local Health Officer declaring a Local Health Emergency due to an immediate threat to public health and safety based on the expected presence of toxic materials and hazardous substances in fire debris from the Thomas Fire;
- b) Authorize the Public Health Director to request assistance from the State for cleanup of Thomas Fire debris; and
- c) Determine that the recommended actions are not a "project" within the California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5), since the recommended actions are government fiscal activities and government organizational activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This declaration will allow the County or the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), if needed, to enter private property without a right of entry form to remove toxic materials and hazardous substances that present an imminent threat to public health and safety.

**Background:**

The Thomas Fire began in Ventura County on December 4, 2017 at approximately 6:30pm. Since that date, the fire has grown into Santa Barbara County burning more than 271,000 acres in both Ventura and

Santa Barbara counties. As of December 19, 2017, the Thomas Fire was 50% contained. More than 8,000 firefighters and 876 fire engines have been assigned to fight the fire. The impacts of this fire are still being assessed. At the time of this writing, approximately 80 structures have been damaged or destroyed.

There is an immediate threat to public health and safety due to toxic materials and hazardous substances expected to be present in burned debris on public and private property. Building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, and insulation can create dangerous ash and dust particles that may contain asbestos, heavy metals, and other toxic materials. Household hazardous substances may include items such as paint, gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, compressed gas cylinders, and other chemicals. Exposure to these toxic materials and hazardous substances during fire debris removal activities may lead to acute and chronic health effects, and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts.

The Public Health Officer, Dr. Charity Dean, declared a local health emergency in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 101080. This Declaration enables the County or CalEPA, if needed, to remove toxic materials and hazardous substances without a right of entry. The Declaration applies to the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

There is no fiscal impact associated with this declaration of a Local Public Health Emergency

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:**

**Attachments:**

**Declaration**

**Resolution**

**Authored by:** Susan Klein-Rothschild, MSW

**cc:**