



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: 12/12/17
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors *OB on behalf of*
FROM: Department Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director
Contact Info: Matt Pontes, Assistant CEO
Robert Lewin, Director of Emergency Management
SUBJECT: Thomas Fire Emergency – Update and Proclamation Ratification

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) Receive an update on the Thomas Fire; and,
- b) Adopt a Resolution 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,
- c) 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,
- d) 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:

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

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 emergency declaration.

As of 0800 hours on December 8, 2017, the Thomas Fire burned 132,000 acres with just 10% containment. Also 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 Management, proclaimed a local emergency due to the Thomas Fire, in order to utilize all resources 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 is only effective for a period of seven days unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors. The local proclamation is now before the Board of Supervisors for ratification.

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 continue as a result of burn damage to the main electric transmission lines. Mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings were initially issued for portions of the County on December 7, 2017, and those orders and warnings remain in place. Extensive smoke and ash have created hazardous air quality, which has led to the closure of most South County schools on December 7th and 8th.

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 added the County of Santa Barbara to the State of Emergency.

On December 8, 2017, at 0800 hours, the Thomas Fire had burned 132,000 acres in Ventura County with just 10% containment. It is actively burning within the Santa Ynez River watershed, which is the primary water source for the South County.

On December 8, 2017, President Trump proclaimed a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura for the Thomas Fire. The Presidential Declaration supports response activities of the federal, state and local government. It authorizes federal agencies to provide “essential” assistance including debris removal, temporary housing and the distribution of medicine, food, and other consumable supplies.

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 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 is effective for a period of seven days unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

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The proclamation issued by the Director of Emergency Services covers the Santa Barbara County Operational Area (i.e., entire geographic area of the county), including cities, unincorporated county areas, and special districts. 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: Robert Lewin

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution Ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency
Attachment B: Proclamation of Local Emergency for Thomas Fire

Authored by:

Elsa Arndt, OEM Deputy Director

cc:

Matt Pontes, County Executive Office
Eric Peterson, Fire Chief
Bill Brown, Sheriff