



**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
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: February 28, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Mark Hartwig, Fire Chief/Fire Warden
Director(s) Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

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Contact Info: Kelly Hubbard, Director of Emergency Management

SUBJECT: Re-Ratification of Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by the January 2023 Storm, Last Action January 10, 2023, All Supervisorial Districts (Sixty-Day Renewal)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution re-ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency caused by the January 2023 Storm in Santa Barbara County pursuant to Government Code Section 8630; and
- b) Receive an update on the January 2023 Storm and its impacts; and
- c) Direct the Office of Emergency Management to return every sixty (60) days for ratification of the Emergency until such a time that conditions dictate otherwise; and
- d) Determine that these actions are exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3) and 15269.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Board of Supervisor’s Agenda in order to receive an update and to re-ratify the Proclamation of Local Emergency related to the January 2023 Storm declared by the Director of Emergency Services on January 9, 2023 and ratified by the Board of Supervisors on January 10, 2023.

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Starting on January 4, 2023 through January 10, 2023, an atmospheric river event impacted Santa Barbara County. These systems brought heavy rain and high winds that resulted in storm surge, flooding, landslides, and debris flows throughout the county.

- Beginning on January 3, 2023, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued wind, coastal flood advisories, and surf advisories for various areas of the county through January 17, 2023.
- Starting on January 5, 2023, the National Weather Service issued multiple flood, flash flood and debris laden flooding advisories, watches and warnings throughout Santa Barbara County through January 14, 2023.
- The Alisal, Cave and Thomas Fire Storm Risk Decision Teams started meeting daily January 3-9, 2023 to receive updates from NWS, County Public Works, and various public safety agencies to determine community risk and recommend protective actions. These meetings quickly expanded to discuss countywide impacts and considerations.
- On January 4, 2023, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist throughout California.
- At the direction of public safety agencies, between January 3-15, 2023 the Office of Emergency Management issued multiple storm or safety advisories, evacuation warnings, evacuation orders and shelter-in-place orders for throughout the South Coast and unincorporated areas in north Santa Barbara County via emergency notification systems.

The storms caused conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara. These conditions were beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat. These conditions warranted and necessitated that the County proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to the damage that would likely be caused by this storm, and receive assistance from the State and Federal governments. Local governments, private properties, businesses, County departments, and the community continue to take emergency protective actions to stabilize critical infrastructure including debris basins, roads, and water and wastewater systems.

Background:

The Director of Emergency Services issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara, as evidenced by multiple weather advisories issued by the National Weather Service and the protective actions taken by the Sheriff's Office. Government Code Section 8630(a) allows the County, acting through the Board of Supervisors, to proclaim a local emergency. Section 8630(c) requires the Board to review the need for the continued existence of the Proclamation of Local Emergency at least every 60 days and Section 8630(d) requires termination of the Proclamation of Local Emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

The County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) continues to coordinate post-disaster recovery efforts. Ongoing recovery efforts include emergency protective measures of critical infrastructure, restoration or repair of government infrastructure, coordination of resources for residential, business and agricultural partners, fiscal tracking of countywide efforts, and more. As recovery efforts continue, the OEM is preparing for the potential of future storms that may cause additional flooding, landslides and debris flows leading to more damage to homes, properties, businesses, local roadways and bridges.

Below is a summary of current efforts underway:

FEMA Public Assistance (Government Reimbursement)

- Santa Barbara County has been approved for all categories of FEMA Stafford Act funding including permanent work and mitigation.
- The County has submitted its formal Request for Public Assistance on behalf of all County departments. The CEO Budget Division with assistance of Ernst & Young will facilitate cost recovery processes with all county departments.
 - Note: A Public Works update is provided as a separate agenda item.
- OEM along with CalOES is assisting all other government and non-profit organizations within the county including the Chumash Band of Indians with their Public Assistance processes.

County Support:

- County/City Referral System
 - A Smartsheet based system was developed for County Staff to refer residents to County or City support services based on identified damages and needs. This is primarily being utilized at the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC), but will continue to be used by OEM and partner agencies for the duration of the recovery.
 - Implemented February 11, 2023
 - Referrals (as of 2/25/23): 110
- County Special Issues Rebuild Committee
 - Support unique or complex rebuilding/recovery efforts that involve multiple private, government, or non-profit organization concepts.
 - Identified through referral system.
- Planning and Development
 - 84 structures Inspected (15 of them were in the City of Guadalupe)
 - 3 Red tagged
 - 57 yellow tagged
 - 22 green tagged
 - 1 unable to inspect
 - 1 not yet inspected (just added)
 - IV Bluffs
 - Limited damage
 - County Park's stairs suffered damage
 - 1 patio was undercut and had to be cut back
 - Minor erosion on another parcel that resulted in cutting off some concrete curbs that were hanging vertically from rebar

Individual Assistance (IA) Application Stats (as of 2/12/23):

- 1,130 Households registered
 - 789 referred to other programs
 - 256 approved
- Total approved IA dollars - \$1,415,508.35

Disaster Recovery Centers:

Joint centers with FEMA, Small Business Administration (SBA), State agencies, non-profit partners, and the County to provide a one-stop location to support community recovery. Translation services for Spanish, Mixteco, and American Sign Language available at both sites.

- North County Site – Allan Hancock College
 - Opened on January 28, 2023
 - Hours of Operation: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
 - Estimated closure February 26, 2023
 - Total visitors (as of 2/16/23): 1,130 households or businesses.
- South County – Direct Relief
 - Opened on January 28, 2023
 - Closed February 15, 2023
 - Total visitors (as of 2/15/23): 279 households or businesses.
- Nonprofit partner highlight
 - 805Undocufund provides additional support services to undocumented residents who can verify damages. These services can also be requested via their website:
<https://805undocufund.org>
 - Fiscal assistance for residents with verified damage and financial need was offered through American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities.

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) Teams

- DSA teams went into the community where to register people for FEMA Individual Assistance and provide additional support to those needing to inquire about registration status or address issues with their application.
- The DSA teams provided the following outreach between January 21 to February 13:
 - 3,176 homes canvassed, spoke with 1438 households/properties
 - 89 registrations completed with additional support to 15 submitted applications
 - 77 targeted business outreaches completed
 - 4 government agencies supported
 - 8 Community Based Organizations supported
 - 4 Faith Based Organizations reached
 - Estimated total reach is 11,280, including force multipliers such as fliers, word of mouth, etc.

Interim Housing Solutions

- Housing Authority of the County Santa Barbara continues to work with County Department of Social Services (DSS), County Community Services Department (CSD) and OEM to support rapid rehousing for individuals permanently displaced by the storm.
- DSS, CSD, American Red Cross and OEM continue to support multiple Rancho Oso families with interim camping solutions, until the facility is reopened (estimated April 2023).

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Agricultural Impacts

- The Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is continuing to collect survey forms to assess the damages/losses caused by the recent storms and is providing periodic updates as more surveys come in.
- Agricultural businesses should register for support through FEMA, SBA and the USDA Farm Services Agency to determine which program apply to their situation.
- As of 2/17/2023, 146 growers and ranchers responded to the survey and reported a combined 5,595 farm acres affected by it.
- Over 36 different types of crop, livestock and infrastructure were impacted for a combined estimated economic loss of \$169 million.
- The majority of the agricultural damage/losses was reported in the northern part of the County, in particular Santa Maria and Guadalupe.
- Strawberry crop fields were hit the hardest and suffered over \$56 million in crop losses.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

The fiscal impact of efforts in support of this incident are ongoing and being evaluated at this time and will be reported to the Board at a future meeting.

Staffing Impacts:

To be determined.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the following:

Office of Emergency Management, Attn: Sonia Thompson

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency for the January 2023 Storm

Authored by:

Kelly Hubbard, Director Office of Emergency Management