



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 / OES
Department No.: 990
For Agenda Of: 18 November, 2008
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief, 681-5526
Thomas Fayram, Deputy Director, Public Works, 568-3436
SUBJECT: **Affirmation of Proclamation of Emergency Associated with Gap Fire,
Recommended Proclamation Termination, Acknowledgement of NRCS Assistance**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Reaffirms the ongoing existence of local emergency due to environmental impacts, response and recovery costs from the Gap Fire;
- B. Allows the Proclamation of an Emergency to terminate on 2 December 2008 at 11:59 PM (local time);
- C. Receives a brief overview of mitigation measures taken to date; and,
- D. Adopt a Resolution of Commendation Honoring the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for their extraordinary service to the citizens of Santa Barbara County.

Summary Text:

Government Code Section 8630(c)(2) mandates the Board to review the need for continuing a local emergency at least every 14 days, until the local emergency is terminated. Staff is recommending that the current proclamation be allowed to terminate. Should circumstances arise, a new proclamation may be executed to protect the citizens of the Operational Area from that incident.

Background:

On July 1, 2008, the Gap Fire was ignited along the Camino Del Cielo, in the National Forest above the City of Goleta. Although the Gap Fire was declared “contained” on July 28, 2008, the results of the Gap Fire continue to pose extreme peril and risk to the citizens of the City of Goleta and the unincorporated areas in the vicinity of the burn area because of the potential of flooding and landslides during the upcoming winter season. After initial local and Gubernatorial Proclamations of Emergency were executed because of the threat posed by Fire, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency on 19 August 2008, because of the threats posed by the environmental damages from the Gap Fire and the need to take immediate actions to reduce the threat to the citizens of the Operational Area.

Project History

The Emergency Operations Chief has been working with local jurisdictions to coordinate mitigation efforts around the Gap Watershed. The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, the City of Santa Barbara and the City of Goleta have cooperated with State and Federal agencies on various capital projects to reduce the threats posed. The presence of an emergency proclamation has assisted all jurisdictions in streamlining projects to ensure that the projects were completed prior to more heavy seasonal rains. The mitigation activities have focused on capital projects to address the threat of flooding, debris and landslides in the areas below the Gap Fire burn area. To date, mitigation activities performed by the jurisdictions have been:

- 1) About 16 miles of streams and creeks have been cleared and snagged, including work at Tecolote, Winchester, Elwood, Glen Annie / Tecolotito, Carneros, San Pedro, Las Vegas, Fremont and San Jose creeks.
- 2) Crews have built five debris racks in areas identified as prone to high run-off sites to intercept debris that can block culverts and bridges downstream along Elwood, Glen Annie, Carneros, San Pedro, and Las Vegas creeks.
- 3) Four major sediment basins along the Goleta Slough system at the City of Santa Barbara Airport have been dredged and cleared to allow for maximum capacity, including sediment basins for Tecolotito, Carneros, San Pedro, and San Jose creeks.
- 4) Installation of temporary rain gauges.
- 5) Installation of a new stream flow gauge on San Pedro Creek
- 6) Establishing a free Sand Bag Station at County Fire Station 14 on Los Carneros Road. Thousands of sand bags have been filled by County forces to support this effort.
- 7) Signing of a county-wide Mutual Aid Public Works Agreement with all city and county public works departments in the event of emergencies or disasters.
- 8) Completed construction on a culvert improvement project on Fremont Creek.

- 9) Emergency K-rail barriers on Carneros Creek and San Pedro Creek installed.
- 10) The County also completed work to strengthen the support structure for the Goleta Beach Bridge in anticipation of heavy truck traffic this winter. As in past flood years, sediments deposited at the airport are hauled to Goleta Beach for rapid disposal of sediments. These sediment dispersal plans have two main goals to help nourish Goleta Beach while slowing erosion at the Beach.
- 11) Completion of important aerial hydromulching for many of the foothill areas burned during the Gap Fire has been completed ahead of schedule and on budget by the County. The County's portion of the aerial hydromulching work was about 1,000 acres and began October 7th, and followed completion of the U.S. Forest Service work that covered about 1,500 acres.
- 12) The Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta and the Goleta Sanitary District are finishing a project on Hollister Avenue over San Pedro Creek that will result in moving a sewer line from underneath the bridge to increase capacity, thus reducing (not eliminating) the risk of blockage. The Flood Control District completed a CEQA document and transmitted it to the City of Santa Barbara on September 26th for filing. In addition, the Flood Control District obtained ACOE and Fish & Game permits on October 6th to allow the Goleta Sanitary District to be successful in accelerating their project.

The NRCS administers a post fire emergency program called the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP). NRCS staff both locally and in the State Office in Davis, Ca, promptly and eagerly responded to staff's request for help. NRCS staff assisted in the preparation of the Damage Survey Reports, preparation of the required economic analysis, recommended funding, and ultimately approved funding for certain elements of the emergency work.

Next Steps

OES is leading efforts around emergency response planning. In cooperation with cooperating agencies such as the Sheriff's Department, Public Works Department, Public Health, Fire and the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara, OES will be conducting a tabletop exercise/review of developed emergency plans at the interim EOC. Looking at plausible scenarios, OES will facilitate a discussion on various agencies strategies and plans in responding to flooding in the Goleta Valley area.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: The adoption of this proclamation does not directly have a financial impact to the County. It is estimated that the projects completed to date have cost approximately \$ 10,100,000. The costs itemize as follows:

Agency or Jurisdiction	Approx. Project Costs
City of Goleta *	\$ 450,000
Santa Barbara County Flood Control District *	4,300,000
United States Forest Service	4,900,000
County of Santa Barbara – PW Transportation and Parks	430,000
Total Project(s) Costs	\$ 10,100,000
* Note – Natural Resources Conservation Service will contribute approximately \$3,300,000 to cover these costs.	

The approximate \$430,000 of project costs associated with the PW Transportation and/or the Parks Departments are from their existing budgets and there is no request for additional or supplemental funding.

The County Flood Control District has spent approximately \$4,300,000 on high priority projects to reduce the threat of flooding. Of this, staff are working with the NRCS to fund approximately 75% of the project costs (\approx \$3,225,000). The remaining 25% (\approx \$1,075,000) is being funded from existing Flood Control District reserves. There is no request for any additional or supplemental funding.

Special Instructions:

The Office of Emergency Services will not be recommending a re-filing of this proclamation when it expires on 2 December 2008. In accordance with Government Code Section 8630(c)(2) this proclamation will expire at the end of the 14 day proclamation period.

Attachments:

Board Resolution of a State of Emergency

Board Resolution of Thanks to the National Resources Conservation Service

Authored by:

Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
County of Santa Barbara Operational Area

Copies to:

James Armstrong, City Administrator, City of Santa Barbara
Dan Singer, City Manager, City of Goleta
Jeri Siegel, Territory Representative, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Southern Region