



**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: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: January 10, 2023
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Kelsey Buttitta, Communications Manager/PIO, 568-3400

DocuSigned by:
Mona Miyasato
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SUBJECT: Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Five Year Recovery Update

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a video presentation and report from staff on the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Five Year Recovery Update; and
- b) Determine that the proposed actions are administrative activities that do not involve commitment to any specific project, and are therefore not a project as defined by State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Sections 15378 (b)(5).

Summary Text: Summary

This item is on the agenda to receive and file a report and video presentation from County staff on the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Five Year Recovery Update.

Our community and County government will never forget the tragedy of the Thomas Fire, which began on December 4, 2017, and the debris flow that followed in Montecito on January 9, 2018. In the five years since those events, much has occurred to rebuild, repair and strengthen our resiliency. The purpose of the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Five Year Recovery Update video presentation and report is to illustrate the progress by the County, Flood Control District, and critical community partners in facilitating whole community recovery following the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow.

Background: Discussion This video update illustrates the work that has taken place in the past five years following the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow disasters.

The County's recovery efforts over the last five years have been guided by the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Recovery Strategic Plan, presented to the Board of Supervisors in June 2018. The plan focused on meeting the medium and long-term needs of residents as they recovered and ensuring ongoing safety and security of County residents. The County's recovery objectives included:

1. Identifying the issues that are important to the recovery of Montecito and developing a plan to solve those issues.
2. Ensuring the public was provided information on the County's efforts in support of Montecito's recovery through all means available.
3. Engaging the public and elected officials to determine the best solutions for recovery.
4. Utilizing private and public partnerships in recovery efforts.
5. Working with non-profits to aid where government services are not able or where they need enhancement.
6. Continuing to prepare the communities for future storms and evacuations utilizing the best data possible.
7. Developing plans and strategies to address the following issues:
 - a. Storm preparation and evacuation for the first 5 years following the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow.
 - b. Long-term mitigation efforts for future fires and storms.
 - c. Rebuilding process for the different categories of damaged and destroyed properties.
 - d. Communication strategies.

The Recovery Plan is comprised of eight strategic areas (below). Actions were taken immediately to implement these recovery strategies in 2018. Some actions were completed while others were focused on longer-term recovery and are still in progress.

1. Storm Preparation and Evacuation – Develop an updated storm readiness plan for future years to address environmental changes and new data to ensure public safety.
2. Long Term Flood Control Mitigation – Develop long-term mitigation plans for flood control that will explore modifications to debris basins and waterways, conveyance systems, alternate debris disposal sites, and the potential purchase of property to include in flood control zones.
3. Private Property Re-building – Support the rebuilding process. Provide the community clear guidance on the rebuilding process with consideration of protecting to the community from future debris flows.

4. Debris on Private Property – Provide support and assistance to the community through the development of a debris management plan.
5. Financial Impacts and Economic Recovery – Develop a comprehensive plan to secure funding for critical hazard mitigation projects and facilitate long-term economic prosperity in the community
6. Infrastructure Repair and Modifications – The infrastructure of Montecito (non-flood control) including water, sanitary, natural gas, electrical, cable, cellular and roads sustained damage from the disaster. Efforts will efficiently facilitate the restoration of infrastructure systems and services to support a viable, sustainable community and improve resilience to and protection from future hazards. Consideration of the aesthetics, cultural and natural resources is important to the community.
7. Natural and Cultural Resources – Support the protection of natural and cultural resources and during recovery actions preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, and restore these resources.
8. Community Engagement – Create linkages, systems and forums whereby the talent, skills and abilities of community, non-profits and philanthropy support and address critical unmet needs of the community.

The Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Five Year Recovery Update report and video will expand and detail out the progress that has been made in these eight strategic areas.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes: N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Select_Budgeted No impacts with the filing of this report

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Fiscal Analysis: N/A

Key Contract Risks: N/A

Staffing Impacts: N/A

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

Attachment A – Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow 5-Year Recovery Update Report

Attachment B – Video Presentation

Authored by:

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cc: