



## PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2023 STORM

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code empowers the County of Santa Barbara, Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

**WHEREAS**, Government Code section 8558(c) defines a "Local Emergency" as: "the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by conditions such as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, cyberterrorism, sudden and severe energy shortage, deenergization event, electromagnetic pulse attack, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat . . ."; and

**WHEREAS**, several fires have occurred in Santa Barbara County resulting in burn scar areas that are susceptible to potential debris flows and severe flooding due to storms and/or soil saturation; this includes the Thomas Fire burn scar which resulted in the January 9, 2018 catastrophic debris flow experienced in the community of Montecito; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Forest Service's Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team issued a report on the Alisal Fire burn area dated November 2, 2021. The report found that the Alisal Fire burned significant portions of critical watershed, with 6,255 acres suffering high- or moderate-burn severity; the area has steep topography; silt, rock and material are already accumulating within the chutes and watercourses; and the area now has a high potential for sediment delivery from burned hillslopes to stream channels and poses serious risks of rock falls, flooding and debris flows in the impacted canyons, which include residences, agricultural and ranching land, recreational facilities, roads, and critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 3, 2023, the National Weather Service issued wind and coastal flood advisories, as well as a high wind warning advising of the potential for damaging winds that may potentially impact trees, other large objects, and power lines; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 4, 2023, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist throughout California for winter storms; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service issued a Flood Watch due to heavy rainstorms countywide in Santa Barbara County Wednesday, January 4, and Thursday, January 5, 2023, with the heaviest rainfall on the South Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 4, 2023, an evacuation order was issued by the County for vulnerable sections of the Thomas Fire and Cave fire burn scar areas and the entire Alisal Fire burn scar area; and

**WHEREAS**, these rainstorms have and are expected to continue to bring heavy rain, flooding, high winds, and the potential for debris flows especially near existing fire burn scar areas as identified on map of ReadySBC.org; and

**WHEREAS**, the Thomas, Cave, and Alisal Fire Burn Scars within Santa Barbara County are being closely monitored due to both rain rates and the potential for saturation concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 9, 2023, at 11:00 AM a Shelter In Place was ordered for the Thomas, Cave, Alisal burn scar areas and protective actions were issued across Santa Barbara County to protect life and property. The actions were issued as a result of immediate threats for flooding and debris flow and a Flash Flood Warning issued for a significant portion of the County; and

**WHEREAS** on January 9, 2023 as a result of forecast heavy rains and a Flash Flood Warning issued by the National Weather Service a mandatory evacuation order was issued for the entire Montecito community and vulnerable canyons to protect life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, this January 2023 Storm is predicted to cause conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara. These conditions are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions warrant and necessitate 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 will likely be caused by this January 2023 Storm, and to receive assistance from the State and Federal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is not in session.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** that a local emergency now exists in the County of Santa Barbara for the entire Santa Barbara Operational Area and that:

1. All the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. The conditions of extreme peril are not the result of labor controversy; and
3. This proclamation of local emergency invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8550 et seq.), Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12 and all other applicable laws, to be used by authorized personnel of the County of Santa Barbara; and
4. Pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(b), the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to require emergency services of any

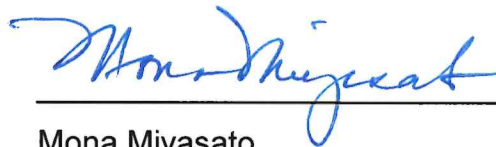
Proclamation of a Local Emergency  
by the Director of Emergency Services  
for the January 2023 Storm

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county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any county department or agency; and

5. A copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be posted in a publicly accessible location at the County Administration Building, and County personnel shall endeavor to make copies of this Proclamation available to news media; and
6. A copy of this proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with the state law; that the Governor waive any regulations that may hinder emergency protective measures and recovery efforts; and that recovery assistance be made available under any other State and Federal programs that may be available; and
7. This Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors, and extended, or unless sooner terminated.

Dated: 3:05 pm, 1-9-23



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Mona Miyasato  
County Executive Officer/  
Director of Emergency Services  
County of Santa Barbara