



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS      Agenda Number:  
AGENDA LETTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Fire  
**Department No.:** 031  
**For Agenda Of:** August 29, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Mark Hartwig, Fire Chief/Fire Warden  
Director(s) Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Contact Info: Kelly Hubbard, Director of Emergency Management  
**SUBJECT:** Re-Ratification and Update to the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by the January 2023 Storm and Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms, Last Action July 11, 2023, All Supervisorial Districts (Update/Re-ratification)

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**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 and updating the Proclamation of Local Emergency caused by the January 2023 Storm and Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms in Santa Barbara County pursuant to Government Code Section 8630; and
- b) Receive an update on the Winter 2023 Storms and their 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 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, and most recently again on July 11, 2023. The attached resolution and this board letter include January through March winter storm incidents, Governor proclamations and Executive Orders, and federal declarations. These include the original storm event starting on January 4, 2023 through January 10, 2023, when an atmospheric river event impacted Santa Barbara County (County), as well as three additional significant storms that have impacted the County and its Operational Area partners. These systems brought heavy rain and high winds that resulted in storm surge, flooding, landslides, debris flows, ground saturation, snow, and high flow releases from local reservoirs throughout the County.

The storms caused conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara. These conditions are 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 the storms, 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.

Additionally, the Santa Maria River continues to flow outside of its original river course, creating conditions of immediate and imminent threat from unusual flooding that could cause loss of life and significant damages to residents, farm land, private business, critical infrastructure, and public facilities within, and around, the disadvantaged City of Guadalupe and Guadalupe Dunes. Further on August 4, 2023, the Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-10-23 to streamline levee repairs and debris removal to help local communities recover from flooding and prepare for the next wet season.

On August 9, 2023, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) issued an Administrative Disaster Declaration for various rural areas in CA including those in Santa Barbara County. This declaration applies to winter storms impacts occurring between February 21, 2023 through July 10, 2023.

- Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 10/10/2023
- Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 05/09/2024

Residents can apply online at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>. Additionally, County OEM is working with SBA to determine the feasibility of a virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center for impacted Santa Barbara County residents.

## **Response Efforts**

The County continues to respond to the impacts of significant rain, wind and snow that have contributed to a continuous state of ground saturation, soils and land movement, flooding, expanding or worsening damages to infrastructure, and required releases of water from reservoirs. These conditions have contributed to expansive staffing and response needs, new and enhanced damages to public and private infrastructure, and continued coordination of the Operational Area. Response efforts include emergency protective measures, reverse notifications, road closures, infrastructure assessments and emergency repairs, sheltering, and unhoused outreach.

- 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 NWS 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.
- Lake Cachuma's storage volume rose from being 35% full to 81% full within 48 hours due to the January 9 storm. Subsequent storms and runoff in January led to Lake Cachuma becoming 99% full by January 31, leading to continued coordination releases, notifications and protective actions.
- Between February 23 through March 2, 2023 the County experienced another series of storms, that included NWS notifications for Winter Weather, Wind, and Flood Advisories, as well as Tornado Warnings, Thunderstorms, Flash Flood Warnings, and Blizzards.
- On February 24, 2023 the County was notified that the Bradbury Dam was going to release significantly more water from Lake Cachuma than expected during heavy rains causing the potential for life threatening flooding downstream.
- On March 9 and 10, 2023 the County was impacted by localized flooding and the need to coordinate releases from Twitchell Dam on the Cuyama River.
- Between March 13 through March 15, 2023 the county experienced another significant storm that included NWS notifications for regarding the potential for high winds, flooding, river flooding and mudflows.
- County Public Works and OEM continue to coordinate with FEMA, CalOES and the Army Corps of Engineers on temporary and long-term measures regarding how to protect the community, private business, and public infrastructure from the Santa Maria River.

## **Recovery Efforts**

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. While recovery efforts continue, the OEM is also preparing for potential future storms that may cause additional flooding, landslides and debris flows leading to more damage to homes, properties, businesses, local roadways and bridges.

FEMA Public Assistance (Government Reimbursement)

The County’s application for Public Assistance has been approved for two presidential declarations at this time. The first is DR-4683-CA “California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides” for the period of December 27, 2022 to January 31, 2023, which includes all categories of FEMA public assistance (emergency protective measures, permanent work and mitigation). The second is DR-4699-CA was amended to include Santa Barbara County to the “California Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides” incident for the period beginning February 21, 2023 to July 10, 2023, which includes all categories of FEMA Public Assistance. On February 28, 2023 the Board approved an agreement with Ernst and Young (E&Y) to support the County’s efforts in cost recovery associated with this event. Auditor Controller and CEO Budget staff are working together with E&Y to assist departments with their submittal processes.

County Estimated Storm Costs (as of 8/11/23)

	<b>Emergency Protective Measures (Categories A-B)</b>	<b>Permanent Work (Categories C-G)</b>
<b>January Storms (DR-4683)</b>	\$33,797,165	\$49,542,096
<b>February/March Storms (DR-4699)</b>	\$19,389,960	\$16,843,000

On June 29, 2023, FEMA issued guidance for permanent work damage sites that were impacted by both January and February/March Presidentially Declared Disasters. In short, under FEMA’s June 29th direction, sites damaged by both storms that had not started permanent repair work will fall wholly under February/March storms. Projects that started work prior to the February/March storms will be captured wholly under January Storms, regardless of whether they were further impacted by the second storm. This guidance should allow for faster cost recovery by the County from FEMA and CalOES in the long run, and avoids the difficult task of pro-rating damages between two sequential storms. However, FEMA’s June 29 guidance required the projects that were submitted to FEMA for January Storms be revised as several projects that were inaccessible were moved to February/March Storms. These revisions to County FEMA projects were completed in July and the County is currently scheduling site inspections for both disasters with FEMA.

Additionally, OEM along with CalOES is assisting other government and non-profit organizations within the County including the City of Guadalupe and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians with their Public Assistance processes. Damages to state properties and infrastructure is coordinated directly through the State. County Public Works and Los Padres National Forest is working with the Federal Highway Administration to pursue emergency funding to address storm damage to federal roads within the County and Forest.

Community Recovery Assistance

Many of the County’s residents, businesses, and agricultural businesses continue to suffer impacts from the original and ongoing storms. The following is a summary of known support efforts:

- 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 was 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 3/15/23): 112
- County Special Issues Rebuild Committee
  - Support unique or complex recovery efforts that involve multiple private, government, or non-profit organization concepts.
  - Identified through referral system.
- Planning and Development

All damages are associated with the January Storm and are within the County Unincorporated, except the 15 within the City of Guadalupe.

- 146 structures Inspected (15 of them were in the City of Guadalupe), Initial Inspection Status:

	<b>Initial Postings</b>	<b>Postings (May 2023)</b>	<b>Current Postings</b>
Red	6	3	2
Yellow	33	32	32
Green	10	14	15
<b>Total Postings</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>

- Isla Vista 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 8/7/23)

It is important to note that Individual Assistance has only been approved for the January Storm time period and that the County has not received significant reports of personal property damage for subsequent storms.

- 1,753 Households registered
  - 1,179 referred to other programs
  - 535 approved (Eligibility Approval Rate 45.38%)

- Total approved IA dollars \$3,562,580

Residents were able to apply to FEMA for Individual Assistance through May 15, 2023.

#### Disaster Recovery Centers

Both of the County's 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 were closed as of February 26, 2023. In addition to these agencies, fiscal assistance for residents with verified damage and financial need is offered through 805Undocufund, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities.

- North County Site – Allan Hancock College
  - Operational from January 28, 2023 to February 26, 2023
  - Total visitors: 1,437 households or businesses.
- South County – Direct Relief
  - Operational from January 28, 2023 to February 15, 2023
  - Total visitors: 279 households or businesses.

#### FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) Teams

DSA teams went into the community 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 teams concluded their outreach between January 21 to February 13, providing the following services:

- 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.

#### Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOC)

Disaster Loan Outreach Centers are hosted by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to support businesses of all sizes, nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters to receive one-on-one assistance with SBA's Customer Service Representatives to answer questions about the disaster loan program and assist in completing their disaster loan applications.

- Orcutt Union School District offices - operational from March 2-17, 2023
  - Total Visitors: 60 households or businesses
- Solvang Superior Court offices – operational from March 2-18, 2023
  - Total Visitors: 46 households or businesses
- Home, Business and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Applications (as of 8/7/23)
  - Total Applications: 378
  - Dollars Approved: \$7,942,000
  - DEADLINE: Thursday, March 16, 2023; extended grace period was through March 31, 2023

- EIDL application deadline for DR-4683-CA has been extended to February 26, 2024 while the application deadline for DR-4699-CA has been established as January 3, 2024.

### 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 until the facility is reopened (estimated September 30, 2023).

### 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 applies 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: As the lead agency for the bulk of the disaster recovery projects, the Public Works Transportation Division will require General Fund assistance for cashflow needs pending FEMA and CalOES reimbursement, as well as local match for state and federal disaster funding. At 2022-23 fiscal year end, \$6.2 million was released to Public Works Transportation from the Disaster Recovery Fund, and an additional \$14 million of fund balance has been earmarked for this need. The overall need in Public Works and other departments for cashflow assistance in the coming fiscal years will likely be greater, and the Strategic Reserve may need to be utilized.

### **Fiscal Analysis:**

County-wide there are estimated to be over \$100 million of damages caused by two storm events in January and February/-March 2023. Repair and recovery costs continue to be monitored and will require some level of funding from General Fund reserves before State and federal reimbursements are received, although at this time those numbers are still unknown.

**Staffing Impacts:** To be determined.

### **Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a e-copy of the minute order of these actions to Kendall Johnston at [kejohnston@countyofsb.org](mailto:kejohnston@countyofsb.org).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Resolution Re-Ratifying and updating the Proclamation of Local Emergency for the January 2023 Storm and Subsequent 2023 Winter Storms

**Authored by:**

Kelly Hubbard, Director Office of Emergency Management