

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF RE-RATIFICATION
OF PROCLAMATION OF THE
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
CAUSED BY THE FEBRUARY 2024 STORMS**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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 such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, 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 conditions 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, beginning January 31, 2024 a powerful, slow moving, atmospheric river storm system (“February 2024 Storms”) struck California and Santa Barbara County, and was expected to continue for several days threatening life and safety, public and private property and structures, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the February 2024 Storm series posed serious risks of rock falls, flooding, landslides, debris flows, severe winds, and coastal flooding throughout the county, with the highest risk associated with watersheds below the Thomas, Cave, and Alisal Fire burn areas, which included residences, agricultural and ranching land, recreational facilities, roads, and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service issued multiple Winter Storm Warnings, including High Wind Warnings, Wind Advisories, and Flood and Flash Flood Warning and Watches throughout the State, including Santa Barbara County, due to impacts from the February 2024 Storms, which included dangerous and life-threatening flooding, landslides, and damaging wind that impacted trees, other large objects, and power lines potentially causing property damage and power outages; and

WHEREAS, based on National Weather Service predictions, County Public Works and public safety partners initiated response preparations January 25, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service also issued high surf advisories, forecasting coastal flooding, large breaking waves, and dangerous rip currents; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office issued Evacuation Warnings that transitioned into Evacuation Orders for approximately 1,214 residents living in flood and debris flow prone areas effective 2:00 pm February 3, 2024, with additional evacuations occurring as needed throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, evacuation shelters for residents and animals have been opened; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2024, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency for the early February 2024 Storms for eight counties, including the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, these February 2024 Storms are predicted to cause conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara and 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 of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to the needs of community and the damage that will likely be caused by this storm, and to receive assistance from the State and Federal governments should it be requested; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2024 public safety agencies determined to lift all evacuation orders.

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2024 the National Weather Service issued a Flood Watch for the majority of the county, as well as Wind Advisories, High Wind Warnings, and Coastal Flood Advisories were issued in subsequent days for multiple areas of the county;

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and the City of Santa Barbara Police Chief issued Evacuation Warnings for residents living in flood and debris flow prone areas again on February 17, 2024;

WHEREAS, all Evacuation Warnings were cancelled between February 19 – 21, 2024, but many roads and areas remained flooded or impassible due to mudslides for a period of time;

WHEREAS, the County and the community continue to experience ongoing impacts from these storms due to ground saturation, slow moving landslides, and ongoing damages; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the proclamation of the existence of an emergency as issued by the Director of Emergency Services with

regards to the February 2024 Storms is ratified by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors will review the need for the continued existence of a Proclamation of Local Emergency at least every 60 days; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that 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

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be posted in a publicly accessible location at the County Administration Building as soon as reasonable and safe to do so, and County personnel shall endeavor to make copies of this Proclamation available to news media; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency 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

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors will review the need for the continued existence of a Proclamation of Local Emergency at least every 60 days.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 2nd day of April 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

STEVE LAVAGNINO, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____
Deputy

DocuSigned by:
By Tyler Sprague
Deputy County Counsel
0AC56B8DE45F483...

KELLY HUBBARD
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By _____
DocuSigned by:
Kelly Hubbard
0D7BD01C7DED466...