



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: March 13, 2018
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, x3404
Contact Info: Matt Pontes, Assistant County Executive Officer, x3407
SUBJECT: Update on Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Community Disaster Recovery Efforts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file an update from the County Executive Office on the 1/9 Debris Flow community disaster recovery efforts;
- b) Receive an update from Planning and Development and Flood Control on the expected permitting and rebuild process in the areas affected by the debris flow;
- c) Provide further direction to staff as appropriate; and
- d) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(4) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because it is a government activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

The goal of this item is to provide an update to the Board of Supervisors regarding the continued response and recovery following the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flow event that occurred on January 9, 2018. The County of Santa Barbara is leading and managing the recovery effort, and partnered with the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other mutual aid partners. Numerous other governmental agencies and community groups have also joined the massive recovery effort. This report is an update to the prior

report that was presented to the Board of Supervisors on January 30, 2018, and will also include updated preliminary cost estimates as per Board direction on February 27, 2018. Staff will continue to discuss comprehensive recovery efforts with the Board of Supervisors and government agencies, residents, and other partners as the County continues with community recovery.

Background:

The Thomas Fire incident began on December 5, 2017. The subsequent storm and debris flow events that took place on January 9, 2018 were combined into the same local, State and Federal proclaimed emergency for disaster claiming purposes, and will be referred to as the 1/9 Debris Flow hereafter. The Thomas Fire destruction of the watershed was the direct cause of the 1/9 Debris Flow and numerous areas throughout southern Santa Barbara County were affected. However, the Montecito area suffered the most catastrophic damage. Complete recovery throughout the Montecito area is estimated to take several years due to many factors. Unlike a fire, the 1/9 Debris Flow significantly changed topography, flood areas, and creeks in multiple areas. In addition, this particular disaster has resulted in a Long-Term Exclusionary Zone, the recovery of which will require a different approach to recovery. These factors have been complicated by the need to prepare for future rain events, and the possibility of additional debris flow events during and/or immediately following those storms. The implementation of recovery objectives has been undertaken by County staff with assistance from CalOES, FEMA, Mutual Aid, special districts, and other non-profit and faith-based community partners. The County's **recovery organization** is attached to this report. Staff is continuing to work diligently to navigate through these impacts in the short, medium and longer term.

The three main recovery objectives are as follows:

- 1) Return residents and open businesses as soon as safely possible;
- 2) Support the repair and rebuild of homes, businesses, and residents' livelihoods as soon as possible; and
- 3) Develop resiliency throughout the community through disaster preparedness, mitigation and improvements, and social and individual resiliency.

The following activities will play critical roles in the County's ability to meet these objectives:

- 1. Restore critical infrastructure within all impacted areas including water, sewer, gas, electricity, storm/flood control assets, bridges/roads, and watersheds and historical assets.**

The 1/9 Debris Flow impacted approximately 50 miles of County roads, 200 culverts, and 20 bridges. Following the event, approximately 30,000 cubic yards of material was removed from roads and cleared from bridges. This material was hauled to local sorting sites and the Ventura Fairgrounds. Once processed and sorted, it was hauled to disposal sites. These efforts included over 8,000 truck trips over a period of six weeks. Road clearing and culvert/bridge clearing will be an on-going activity for the next 3-5 years. Many drainages and roads still have material to be removed, and there are permanent restoration projects needed at several locations. These include culvert clearing and repair, bridge rail reconstruction, and three County bridge replacements. The County Public Works Roads Division is currently developing permanent restoration scopes, and preparing for future storms and possible debris flow events with additional clearing and cleaning work, which includes identifying potential sites for debris removal.

2. Complete debris clearance operations in all affected basins and channels.

While the Thomas Fire was burning, the County Public Works Flood Control Division responded to the predicted storm event by quickly clearing 11 debris basins located below the Thomas Fire burn area in Montecito, and completed that work on January 5, 2018. This proved to be a life-saving action, as all of the debris basins became completely filled during the 1/9 Debris Flow. Following the 1/9 Debris Flow, Flood Control staff teamed with the Transportation Division to clear bridges and open roadways for access and mobility. Flood Control immediately requested assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers to clear debris basins, totaling approximately 400,000 cubic yards. Staff also opened creeks and provided assistance to search and rescue/recovery teams. Finally, the removal of debris from clogged channels was initiated in many reaches of creeks from Arroyo Paridon Creek to Montecito/Cold Springs/Hot Springs Creeks. This activity of stream channel and debris basin clearing will need to occur after each storm event for the next three to five years.

3. Identify resources to facilitate mud and debris removal from private property, including acceptable repository locations for mud/debris that are both convenient and cost-effective.

The Public Works Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division was tasked with developing and implementing a plan to facilitate disposal opportunities for debris flow material on private property in the affected areas of Montecito. Unlike a flood or burn event, the 1/9 Debris Flow left enormous quantities of mud, soil, rocks and trees in its wake, in addition to more typical types of disaster-related debris such as structural, household, and vehicle debris. The majority of the debris material resulting from this event is natural, and not required to be buried in a landfill. In addition, there are existing and potential outlets for this material that cost significantly less than landfill disposal. Beginning on January 24, 2018, daily meetings were held at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to facilitate the development and implementation of the plan.

The following activities have been accomplished to date:

- Development and distribution of guidelines and best practices for safe debris removal;
- Identification and provision of resources/facilities to manage and dispose of debris;
- Development of a Materials Exchange Program to facilitate the sharing of natural resources throughout the community. The Public Health Department determined that the soil from the debris flow is safe for residential and many business purposes. The program allows for the mutually-beneficial and cost-effective transfer of resources from one property to another with minimal participation from the County;
- An option for acceptance of private property debris material for sorting, staging and temporary storage at the Tajiguas Landfill as a short-term solution due to a lack of local outlets;
- Ongoing collaboration with other agencies and entities to identify additional outlets for the short and long-term management and disposal of disaster debris;
- Initiation of the development of a program to collect hazardous waste that is identified as such by property owners and contractors during cleanup activities; and
- Partnership with community leaders, CalOES and FEMA to provide the collection of limited quantities of disaster debris from private properties (three truckloads per home). 55 properties, all less than 0.5 acres, participated in the three cleanup events held in February 2018, and a total of 166 truckloads of material carrying 2,240 tons of material were removed from the area.

4. Support private property owners through the rebuilding permitting process. Provide information to private property owners in declared disaster zones regarding the process for determining the future of their properties.

Planning and Development assigned case managers for every property owner in the impacted area in order to provide advice and service. In addition, existing codes allow expedited processes and quicker timeframes for the replacement of like structures following a disaster in order to assist affected residents who wish to rebuild their properties. Due to the changing topography and proximity of stream channels to some private properties following the 1/9 Debris Flow, additional cautionary planning will be required as part of the rebuilding process. Inspections are being conducted on the next business day for all inquiries. Information that is focused on community-specific needs will continue to be provided at the Montecito Center.

5. Creation of AIASB Recovery Taskforce of Architects and other design professionals.

This group has been developed to brainstorm and explore methods and models of how destroyed properties can develop with resiliency and as part of a community. The Taskforce plans to conduct a tour of the area, hold a charrette (collaborative session) in which the group of designers will draft possible solutions to design development problems, and hold a community event at which information will be shared with property owners.

6. Develop plan to mitigate traffic impacts in Montecito created by road and bridge closures.

A Traffic Management Taskforce was convened and meets regularly to consider various methods for relieving congestion on affected roads throughout the Montecito area. Options include signs, routing, scheduling, traffic officers and traffic studies. The task force includes representatives from California Highway Patrol (CHP), Caltrans, County Public Works Roads Division, County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Santa Barbara, and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG). The group has successfully achieved several simple solutions that have had an impact and will continue to identify more. If the situation develops to the point where there is competition for roadways and unsafe traffic within the community, staff may return to the Board of Supervisors for further policy direction.

7. Conduct coordinated messaging to public and internal/external partners to aid in response and recovery efforts in impacted areas (short, intermediate and long-term).

A critical component of future storm preparedness and 1/9 Debris Flow recovery efforts is a sound and sustainable communications strategy which addresses the needs of communities. Ensuring that the people of Santa Barbara County are safe, prepared, and receiving accurate and timely information before, during, and after disaster strikes is vitally important.

The following communications goals have been identified as part of the County's overall storm readiness and recovery communications strategy:

- 1) Ensure that every resident within Santa Barbara County is signed up for Aware and Prepare so that they may receive timely, official, and vital County information in the event of an emergency or disaster. This includes metrics to measure progress toward signup targets;
- 2) Clearly convey the likelihood of future storm events and the associated risks;
- 3) Ensure that all evacuation orders are consistent, clearly understood and followed;
- 4) Highlight progress toward recovery, and comprehensive efforts including work currently underway and what to expect in the future; and

- 5) Ensure the Santa Barbara County Emergency Operations Team and Joint Information Center (JIC) are proactive, timely, consistent, and accurate sources of emergency information, and are highly responsive to the public information needs of the communities we serve.

By embarking upon a series of short, mid and long-term goals, the implementation of this communication strategy will allow the County to take a proactive approach to public safety and community protection, provide timely information before, during and after disasters, and provide highlight recovery efforts, and helpful information regarding resources and services.

The following is a sampling of short, mid and long-term tools and tactics that are underway or under development. Each will play a key role in the County's ability to achieve its communication goals. Communication strategy tools and tactics include but are not limited to:

- **Aware and Prepare, Everbridge and Nixle alert systems (complete/ongoing):** This tactic is consistently reviewed for opportunities to enhance messaging, tailor messages to specific incidents, and corresponding actions to be taken.
- **Spanish-language outreach (complete/ongoing):** In an effort to ensure that all residents have access to the same accurate and timely information following the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow, all communications have been released in both English and Spanish. To streamline the process, individuals able to perform immediate translation from English to Spanish have been onsite in the Joint Information Center at the EOC.
- **One-stop website (complete/ongoing):** The County established a one-stop storm preparedness and recovery website, www.ReadySBC.org, on February 6, 2018. The website is frequently updated to reflect the most up-to-date information. The website received 28,000 page views within the first week of its launch.
- **Social media (complete/ongoing):** The County utilizes three primary social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These platforms are updated daily, and play a key role in the County's emergency communication and recovery efforts.
- **Maps (complete/ongoing):** Mapping, and specifically interactive mapping, has become a cornerstone of the County's emergency communications efforts. All maps can be found at www.ReadySBC.org. As an example, the interactive map released to notify the community of mandatory evacuations on March 1, 2018 received 18,000 views in one hour.
- **How-to videos (several complete/others under development):** Multiple how-to videos are currently being developed. Several have been developed by utilizing drone technology in order to show current field conditions. Short 30-second videos on various topics have proven to be a quick and effective means to communicate with individuals, and can be utilized on multiple communications platforms.
- **Brochures and outreach materials (complete/ongoing):** Staff continues to develop comprehensive outreach materials and information regarding private property recovery, mud disposal, debris removal, hazardous waste, and health and safety precautions. These

materials have been made available in both paper and electronic formats, and have been provided to affected businesses and residents throughout repopulation. Targeted brochures were developed in both English and Spanish to inform the community about the 72-hour storm evacuation timeline, define evacuation terminology, and explain the actions that would be taken in order to ensure the public's safety. Original brochures are being updated for countywide use, as hard copy materials are critical in the event that there is a loss of power or individuals cannot access www.ReadySBC.org. Outreach materials will continue to be available to the public for the duration of the recovery effort.

- **Community meetings and press conferences (complete/ongoing):** Multiple press conferences and community meetings were held during the Thomas Fire and in the aftermath of the 1/9 Debris Flow. These meetings will continue on a regular basis in order to directly inform the public regarding current issues, and immediately respond to questions and concerns on a one-on-one basis.
- **Speakers Bureau (under development):** Key staff from throughout the operational area would be available to give presentations on the subject of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery to local non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, community groups, schools, and faith-based organizations.
- **Ambassador Program (under development):** The Ambassador Program would train local residents to serve as community safety ambassadors. Ambassadors would give presentations, staff booths at events, and speak to neighborhood groups about how to utilize www.ReadySBC.org to stay connected to emergency preparedness and recovery information.

8. Continue focus on community engagement to ensure that affected residents and businesses are aware of recovery efforts and available resources.

The County is employing a “Whole Community” approach to recovery following the 1/9 Debris Flow. Key points of the “Whole Community” approach to recovery are:

1. Understanding community complexity;
2. Recognizing community capabilities and needs;
3. Fostering relationships with community leaders;
4. Building and maintain partnerships;
5. Empowering local action; and
6. Leveraging and strengthening social infrastructure, networks, and assets.

Recognizing that these are critical aspects to recovery, First District Supervisor and 2018 Chair Das Williams initiated a Rebuilding Montecito stakeholder process on January 26, 2018. The goal is to develop a framework for encouraging and utilizing community input, fostering stakeholder engagement, and prioritizing actions related to recovery and resilience. Through this process, community leaders may be advised on various ideas for rebuilding the Montecito community, and will have a process for discussing how and when to implement these ideas. Through community partnership, a facilitator from the community will be used to help the community translate innovative community solutions to federal and private funding sources that will help build resiliency in Montecito and meet short timeframes for Federal funding. Objectives include ensuring community ownership of recovery efforts, and ensuring the effective

and efficient coordination of short, medium and long-term activities that will occur in public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors.

On January 17, 2018, Santa Barbara County opened a Local Recovery and Assistance Center (LAC) for victims of the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow incident. The LAC served as a centralized, single-point location for essential resources and services to help community members recover and rebuild. Representatives from federal, state, local and non-profit agencies were onsite to provide resources such as housing assistance, counseling support, and information to aid in rebuilding, permitting, loss of business and/or employment, hazardous materials cleanup, health and human services, and other issues that have impacted community residents.

Beginning on February 5, 2018, the County shifted operations from the LAC to the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). The Disaster Recovery Center served as a centralized location where individuals whose homes were damaged or destroyed could receive advice and information about disaster assistance programs. Representatives included FEMA, the Employment Development Department (EDD), the Small Business Administration (SBA), and the State Supplemental Grant Program. A designated individual was also available to assist with other inquiries and referrals.

The County recognized the need to establish a presence within the affected area in order to continue providing convenient access to resources and services. As a result, the County has opened a new disaster recovery center in Montecito. The Montecito Center will serve as a key source of support, information, and resources at one centralized location for residents, businesses, employees and communities affected by the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow. Members of the public will be able to access services, obtain up-to-date information, provide input, and engage in the recovery and rebuilding process. The Montecito Center will also serve as a platform for creativity, collaboration, and learning by encouraging innovative, community-based strategies for working together in support of preparedness, recovery, and rebuilding. Representatives from County departments involved in recovery and rebuilding will be onsite, and counseling services will be available on a regular basis. Staff knowledgeable in the availability of various services will also be present to help connect residents to additional resources. Leadership staff from the County Office of Emergency Management will maintain a presence and provide assistance whenever possible.

9. Maintain fiscal accountability and utilize the Public Assistance Program with direction and assistance from Cal OES and FEMA.

In an effort to ensure fiscal accountability throughout the cost recovery processes following the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow, the County has engaged the consulting firm Ernst & Young. The consulting firm will assist the County in strategically managing the project development and administration of various federal and state disaster programs related to the disasters. Additionally, Ernst & Young will provide comprehensive disaster recovery management services in an effort to maximize cost recovery with FEMA, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other public assistance programs.

10. Build and maintain partnerships with local non-profit organizations to address unmet needs associated with long-term recovery efforts.

There are numerous disaster assistance programs available to residents affected by the 1/9 Debris Flow. However, there may be needs beyond what local, state and federal agencies are able to provide, which in many cases is limited to food, clothing and shelter. As a result, long-term recovery structures typically involve organizations that address needs in other areas. In an effort to fulfill these unmet needs and ensure that affected residents receive comprehensive services,

the County established the Community Long-Term Recovery Group (CLTRG). This group will connect residents to additional resources and services offered by local non-profit organizations, and will provide case management services. The CLTRG will also coordinate the provision of long-term assistance to affected individuals who do not have adequate personal resources to meet their basic needs as a result of the 1/9 Debris Flow. In addition, the CLTRG will coordinate financial support from nonprofits and philanthropic entities, and organize volunteer efforts to assist residents with things such as home cleanup. The CLTRG will also address the emotional impacts of the 1/9 Debris Flow by facilitating counseling support and connecting affected residents to spiritual, emotional, and physical resources in an effort to support community wellness.

The CLTRG Steering Committee will lead six functional groups that focus on the various unmet needs of individuals and families as they navigate long-term recovery:

- 1) Case management;
- 2) Finance, public relations, fundraising and in-kind services;
- 3) Volunteer coordination;
- 4) Construction coordination;
- 5) Community wellness; and
- 6) Community assessment

11. Property reassessments

Upon obtaining the lists of properties impacted by the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow, the County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's Office took immediate action to develop and implement the process of value reductions for these properties. The Assessor's Office researched the affected properties, which included reviewing the 2017 assessed values for each property. The Assessor's Office also worked with the County Auditor-Controller's Office to determine an estimate of the potential loss of property assessed values.

Arrangements were made with Eagle View, an aerial imagery service, to survey the areas affected by the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow. Four-inch orthogonal and oblique imagery was acquired. The Assessor's Office is comparing this new imagery to imagery from 2015 in order to better determine the extent of the damage resulting from these disasters. The Assessor's Office has assembled five teams of two appraisers each to assess the fire and debris flow area. These teams are equipped with laptops or tablet devices, which they will take into the field to access Assessor records and recent aerial imagery of the areas.

Timelines have been established to determine the appropriate reduction of value for the properties affected by the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow. The Assessor's Office estimates that the 50 or so properties affected by the Thomas Fire will be reviewed by mid-March 2018. Determining the reduction of value for the 380 or so properties affected by the 1/9 Debris Flow will take longer due to accessibility issues, difficulties determining the immediate condition of the property, and uncertainty surrounding whether the property can be rebuilt. The Assessor's Office estimates that the properties impacted by the 1/9 Debris Flow will be revalued before roll close in June 2018.

Communicating with the public and affected property owners has been a priority with the Assessor's Office since these disasters occurred. Assessor staff was on hand at the community outreach centers located in Carpinteria on December 22, 2017 and at the LAC/DRC from

January 17, 2018 through February 3, 2018 to answer questions and help the public understand how the Assessor was going to reduce property assessments due to fire and debris flow. Additionally, disaster forms were sent to affected parties to ensure they were aware that properties would be reviewed for potential property value loss.

12. Develop resiliency measures, including plans for strategic long-term recovery, and future fire and flood control mitigation.

Currently, the most immediate issue is ensuring the public's safety by focusing on storm readiness and preparing the community for future debris flow incidents. A new study drafted by the CAL FIRE Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) and the National Forest Service Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team, in collaboration with the Department of Water Resources and the California Geological Survey, suggests lower thresholds for debris flows. This is an indication that storms of lesser magnitude could still cause significant damage. Public outreach efforts are underway to educate residents on these dangers, and foster awareness of this new reality.

This study also highlights the need for further mitigation in high flood risk areas, which have expanded beyond historical areas. Mitigation measures will need to be evaluated and prioritized given public safety needs. Potential mitigations strategies may include evaluating rebuilding along creek buffer zones, constructing deeper channels, adding additional catch basins, or adding capacity to current basins. Each potential strategy will require extensive evaluation in order to determine the level of protection it will offer, how much it will cost, the legal framework that may be required, and the implications each may have to planning and rebuilding efforts.

The Montecito Fire Department, County Fire Department, and County Sheriff's Office will continue to work together on resiliency efforts. These may also include expanding wildfire protection methods such as defensible space, ensuring adequate water supplies for firefighting efforts, maintaining adequate roads for fire response and law enforcement access, and communicating pre-emergency evacuation information to ensure the community remains resilient and prepared. Other potential suggestions included installing a siren alerting system, and dedicating the areas within the Exclusionary Zones as open space buffer areas. Several of these concepts relate to general community improvements, while others relate more specifically to the mitigation of future disasters and other threats. Recovery efforts funded by FEMA and CalOES must be directly related to those mitigations and recovery ideas.

In order to develop effective resiliency measures and plans for strategic long-term recovery, the County is working to engage Hagerty Consulting, an emergency management consulting firm that helps clients prepare for and recover from disasters. Established in 2001, Hagerty has worked on some of the nation's largest recovery and preparedness projects, and is consistently recognized throughout the industry. The consultant will focus on strategic community planning, and the development of a team dedicated to sourcing and securing future funding for disaster recovery efforts. The consultant will also focus on flood control mitigation and floodplain management. Floodplain management is a program of preventive and corrective actions taken to reduce the risk of current and future flooding, including zoning laws, building codes, and special ordinances. The consultant will also assist with long-term strategic planning related to post-disaster redevelopment, economic recovery, and community risk reduction.

13. 1/9 Debris Flow disaster recovery project management

Given the unprecedented scope of the recovery efforts related to the 1/9 Debris Flow, the County has recognized the need for comprehensive project management and expertise specific to disaster recovery. As a result, the County is working with community partners to engage disaster recovery expert consultants, who will serve as the Chief Project Advisor for the County's 1/9 Debris Flow disaster recovery effort. Augmented project management areas will include:

- Consultation on policy issues related to recovery;
- Coordination of consultant resources hired by the County;
- Coordination with local, state and federal agencies;
- Development of the County's overall recovery strategy;
- Strategic planning;
- State and federal disaster program guidance;
- Strategic communications;
- Engagement with local community organizations;
- Assistance in vetting supplemental consultants to support recovery requirements; and
- Provide such as other services as may be directed by the County Executive Office

14. Community Partnerships and Donations

The Partners for Resilient Communities is an example of a nonprofit organization that the County has partnered with to assist with immediate and longer-term disaster resiliency efforts. This non-profit has committed to donate funds to the County for a portion of the project management, community facilitation, and expert help needs described above. Staff will bring forth these conditional donations and related service contracts in the near future.

Since the 1/9 Debris Flow, massive recovery efforts have been underway. The effort will continue to be managed by County staff and agency partners, led by an Assistant County Executive Officer who is serving as the Director of Recovery. The recovery effort has been a collaborative process across many County departments, key operators, and financial partners including the County Executive Office, Public Works, Montecito Fire, County Sheriff's Office, FEMA and CalOES. The Director of Recovery continues to maintain oversight of all recovery operations with direct support from the Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and continues to coordinate the primary functions of the recovery effort. As the community enters into further phases of recovery, the County may be able to return these functions back to the standard departmental structure. With assistance from its public safety partners, OEM will remain focused on storm readiness to ensure that communities impacted by recent fires are prepared for future storm events.

The Board of Supervisors will continue to provide direction on policy and financial issues within its purview. The Montecito Fire District, Montecito Water District, and Montecito Sanitary Districts will continue to be consulted as issues arise. Staff will continue to engage with community stakeholders, and will relay feedback to the First District Supervisor for input on the recovery process.

Fiscal Analysis:

The Summary of Costs provides updated cost estimates by County department. The summary combines expenditures to date related to the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow with projected future expenses. Expenses are separated into various categories, including whether costs are anticipated to be FEMA reimbursable or non-reimbursable, and whether work was designated as Emergency or Permanent work. In most circumstances, overtime costs are reimbursable when they are incurred in response to a declared

disaster, whereas straight time spent on a disaster during regularly scheduled hours is not reimbursable. Expenses such as supplies, equipment and contractors, are assumed to belong in the Emergency category. Expenses related to rebuilding and repairing damaged facilities are classified as Permanent work.

The total estimated cost of responding to and recovering from the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow is currently projected to exceed \$55 million. This is an increase of \$9 million from the \$46 million previously reported to the Board of Supervisors on February 27, 2018. This increase is largely driven by increased Public Works costs for hauling debris, as well as updated projections for rebuilding costs in Public Works and the Community Services Parks division. Staffing costs also increased across most departments. As multiple pay periods passed since the initial cost estimates were prepared and actual expenses for these pay periods became available, the true amount of staff time being spent on response and recovery became clearer. However, a recent change in federal law may have the positive impact of decreasing the County's share of debris removal costs from 6.25% to 2.5%. While this change continues to be monitored and will be factored into future estimates once the effects become clearer, it is not included in the estimates presented on the Summary of Costs. As a result, the County's share of costs may be slightly overstated. Finally, revenue loss estimates remain unchanged. The current estimated potential loss remains at \$2.8 million in FY 2017-18 (offset by unrelated, unanticipated gains), and \$3.1 million during FY 2018-19.

As the current fiscal year progresses, County staff will continue to monitor appropriations within all departments, and expects to return to the Board of Supervisors with further budget revisions as costs and reimbursement timing becomes clearer. Future draws on the Strategic Reserve may include non-General Fund departments, and could cover either the local portion of the Emergency and Permanent disaster-related costs, and/or address cash flow needs until federal and state reimbursement is received. Current Board policy authorizes the Auditor-Controller's Office to provide temporary cash flow to Special Revenue Funds that end a month with a negative cash balance, which will be utilized as needed. Public Works staff continues to work in conjunction with the County Executive Office to pursue the filing of an expedited reimbursement claim that could help mitigate cash flow challenges. Ultimately, once the County's proposed Permanent Work rebuilding projects are approved by FEMA and the state, and costs are agreed upon, staff will return to the Board of Supervisors to address the local share of funds needed to cover the County's portion of project costs.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Summary of Costs

Attachment B: Santa Barbara County Recovery Organizational Chart

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