



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROCLAIMS SECOND LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO SEVERE WINTER STORMS

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – At 12:30 p.m. today, Santa Barbara County proclaimed a local emergency due to the severe winter storms that impacted the County February 16-18, with most significant damage caused by the storm on Friday, February 17. The storm delivered sustained winds of 30-40 miles per hour (MPH) with gusts up to 60-70 MPH, rain amounts of 4 to 9 inches, dangerous flash flooding, mud debris and flows, and coastal erosion that caused severe damage to private and public property, roads and highways, and critical infrastructure. As one example of storm damage, the Goleta Beach Pier is closed until repairs can be made to ensure the public's safety.

This is the second storm-caused local emergency proclamation issued by the County this winter. The proclamation was signed by County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato and will be ratified by the Board of Supervisors at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 28 in Santa Barbara. This proclamation is for the entire County including all of the affected cities and districts. **[County's Proclamation attached.]**

By the County executing this proclamation of a local emergency, we will be asking the state and federal government for emergency assistance for the February storm that caused, by preliminary assessments, approximately \$7.4 million in damage. This is in addition to about \$7 million in damage to private and public property from the previous January storms. The County will be asking the Governor's Office of Emergency Services for state assistance. Should the Governor proclaim an emergency, it does not guarantee public reimbursement and does not provide for private reimbursement.

"Following years of drought and below-average rainfall, we have encountered a succession of severe winter storms that are the source of destruction to public infrastructure and a threat to the safety of our communities," said Joan Hartmann, Chair of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. "We recognize the importance of not only continuing our efforts to deal with these ongoing emergencies, but also to ask for vital state and federal assistance."

There are still many weeks left in this rainy season so residents and visitors are urged to be prepared and sign up for emergency alerts at www.AwareandPrepare.org. "If we can't reach you, we can't alert you."

For information about Santa Barbara County government initiatives, policies, programs and services, go to www.CountyofSB.org.

**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FEBRUARY STORMS 2017**

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, Section 8558 (c) of the Government Code 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, On February 17, 2017 and for several days following, a major storm influenced by an atmospheric river condition impacted Santa Barbara County. This **Storm** caused conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara and were beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

WHEREAS, Local Officials are still assessing the full scope of damage caused by the **Storm** to public and private property located in the incorporated and unincorporated area of the County, with preliminary estimates in excess of \$7.4 million.

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 damage caused by the local emergency and receive any needed funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act and any other funding both State and Federal funds that may be available;

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; and

1. That all the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. That the conditions of extreme peril are not the results of labor controversy; and

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BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
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3. That this proclamation of local emergency, invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all of the 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. That, 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 county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any county department or agency; and
5. That a copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be posted on all outside public access doors of the County Administration Building, and County personnel shall endeavor to make copies of this Proclamation available to news media; and
6. Direct that a copy of this proclamation 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 recovery efforts and that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other State and Federal funds that may be available; and
7. That 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: 2-22-17

Time: 12:30 p.m.



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