

Mona Miyasato
County Executive Officer



105 East Anapamu Street, Room 406
Santa Barbara, California 93101
805-568-3400 • Fax 805-568-3414
www.countyofsb.org

Executive Office

May 16, 2018

The Honorable Michael Cohen
Director, Department of Finance
State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Santa Barbara County Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow – Budget Request

Dear Director Michael Cohen:

As you know, Santa Barbara County has suffered devastating losses that resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage, disrupting thousands of lives, businesses and government services due to the Thomas Fire, which was the largest wildfire in California in history. After weeks of wildfires, the Santa Barbara County continued to suffer devastating mudslides, which created tremendous loss resulting in wide spread debris flows, property loss and multiple fatalities.

We appreciate you working with our County on the ongoing challenges facing local government, private businesses and homeowners in rebuilding. We want to make sure that the State remains aware that the ongoing effects of the Thomas Fire and 1/9 debris flow are not over and that the situation remains a potential threat of further incomprehensible damage.

Santa Barbara Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow List of Requests

- The County needs the recognition from State and Federal authorities that this incident is still very much open and until the vegetation returns, communities remain at risk.
- The County needs analysis from California Geological Survey and Department of Conservation of the new LIDAR mapping data that assesses the risks of another debris flow, so that public safety officials can better translate that into revised evacuation protocols.
- The County needs support from the State to improve alerting systems and technology with common statewide terminology and procedures to use during evacuations.
- The County requests a backfill of \$2.58M of lost Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues this fiscal year and next as a result of the closure of two hotel properties. These two properties account for \$62% of the TOT revenue to the County. In other events, emergency workers coming into the area for disaster response fill rooms and make up lost tourist dollars. This is not the case with these properties, which were damaged and closed as a result of the disaster.

- The County requests a waiver for debris removal, which equates to \$3.2 M for the Santa Barbara County, which the Governor has granted to the Northern California jurisdictions.

Debris Flow County “Waive Local Match” Request:

Army Corp (FEMA-assigned clearing of eleven debris basins and multiple stream channels)
 \$110M
 County Expenditures for clearing public infrastructure
\$ 17M
 Total Cost of Debris Removal \$127M
 (County Share @ 2.5% = \$3.2M)

Requested Waiver of Local Match: \$3.2M

Previously Provided Property Tax and TOT Backfill Request:

For FY 17-18 Property Taxes:

County General Fund:	\$1.28M
Dependent districts (Fire, Flood, Water):	\$603K
All other entities (except schools)	\$737K
Total:	\$2.62 M*

For FY 18-19 Property Taxes:

County General Fund:	\$3.1M
Dependent districts (Fire, Flood, Water):	\$280K
All other entities (except schools)	\$2.26M
Total:	\$5.64 M*

* These Property Tax losses were funded in the Governor’s May Revise.

TOT tax losses

FY 2017-18 TOT loss:	\$2.1M
FY 2018-19 TOT loss:	\$478K
Total:	\$2.58 M

Thank you for your consideration of this request and all of your work on helping our community to rebuild our infrastructure to move forward.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
 Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Governor Edmond G. Brown Jr.

Diane Cummings, Special Assistant to Governor Edmond G. Brown Jr.
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 13th Senate District
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of
Supervisors