

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Michael Callagy, County Executive
Subject: Proclamation of Local Emergency

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution ratifying and extending the proclamation of local emergency by the San Mateo County Director of Emergency Services.

BACKGROUND:

Section 8630 of the Government Code and Chapter 2.46 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code authorize the Director of Emergency Services (“Director”) of San Mateo County to proclaim a local emergency when the County is threatened by conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County that are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the County and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat and the Board of Supervisors is not in session. (Pursuant to the County Ordinance Code, the County Executive also serves as the County Director of Emergency Services.)

Under the Government Code and Chapter 2.46 of the County Ordinance Code, the Director’s Proclamation of Local Emergency shall remain in effect for no more than seven days, unless the proclamation has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

DISCUSSION:

On January 2, 2023, I issued a proclamation of local emergency in San Mateo County due to the damage and impacts resulting from the extreme and unprecedented levels of rainfall and associated severe weather over the last several days. As you know, communities throughout the County of San Mateo have suffered from an array of impacts which have created conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of San Mateo County.

Among other things, vehicle traffic has been seriously disrupted, with major roads within the County intermittently closed by the severe weather. For example, Highway 101 was closed in both directions at the Brisbane Causeway for a significant period of time due to flooding. Highways 1, 35, 84, and 92, among other roads, have also been subject to closure owing to extreme rain and associated severe weather.

Other public services, including sewer treatment plant facilities, have been put at risk of failure by the severe weather. Also, Pescadero Creek Road has flooded, which has required the positioning of one of the engines ordinarily located at the fire station on Pescadero Creek Road to the Pescadero High School campus, with another remaining at the station in order to ensure acceptable emergency responses to the Town of Pescadero, in spite of the flooding.

Further, the trailer home community at 100 Harbor Boulevard, in Belmont, has suffered from severe flooding, resulting in the need to evacuate all of the approximately 100 units in the park. Likewise, the Moonridge farmworker housing community in unincorporated Half Moon Bay, has also suffered from flooding, resulting in the need to evacuate several units in the community.

More rain and associated severe weather are anticipated over the next week; meteorologists are anticipating that the area may see another “atmospheric river” event. The National Weather Service reports that it is possible that another approximately 3.4 inches of rain may fall in San Mateo County during the twenty-four-hour period beginning on the night of January 3, 2023.

As noted, under the Government Code and the County Ordinance Code, a proclamation of local emergency declared by the Director of Emergency Services shall remain in effect for no more than seven days unless it is ratified and extended by the Board of Supervisors.

In light of current circumstances, I recommend that the Board of Supervisors ratify and extend the proclamation of local emergency. Under the Government Code and the County Ordinance Code, the Board of Supervisors must review the proclamation of local emergency at least once every sixty days to determine the need for continuing the local emergency.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approving the action recommended here may assist with the receipt of mutual aid resources from the State of California and from neighboring jurisdictions.