



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Sheriff's Office



Date: January 3, 2013

Board Meeting Date: January 8, 2013

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, Director, Of Emergency Services

Subject: Ratification of Proclamation of Local Emergency Resulting from the
December 23, 2012 Storm

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution declaring the continued existence of a local emergency in San Mateo County resulting from a severe winter storm which occurred on December 23, 2012, and ratifying the proclamation of a local emergency pursuant to section 8558(c) of the Government Code and San Mateo County Ordinance Code Section 2.46.060.

BACKGROUND:

On December 23, 2012, a strong Pacific storm hit San Mateo County. Prior to the December 23rd storm, the County had experienced several storms that saturated the ground with rain water. As a result of the heavy rain, the ground was not able to absorb the increased water runoff. This caused several communities in San Mateo County to experience storm related damage, including areas in unincorporated San Mateo County.

DISCUSSION:

The December 23, 2012, storm produced over three inches of rainfall with winds up to 45 miles per hour. Coupled with the fact that the ground was already saturated from previous storms, mud slides and flooding occurred in the San Francisquito Creek area of Woodland, Verbena, and Runnymede Avenues in the City of East Palo Alto. The flooding in this area was severe causing both voluntary and mandatory evacuations that required the sheltering of individuals living in the affected neighborhood. Pescadero Creek, between the town of Pescadero and Highway 1, suffered severe flooding, making it impassable to vehicle traffic. The Town of Woodside suffered major damage to drainage culverts, and the Town of Portola Valley experienced a hillside/road "slip out" on Alpine Road. The Seymour Bridge in the City of Half Moon Bay also sustained damage as a result of the severe weather.

In response to these incidents, the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) activated their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on December 23, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. to support the efforts of the Menlo Park Fire Department District Operations Center. The EOC remained open until 11:30 p.m.

San Mateo County OES also provided additional support to the City of East Palo Alto, Town of Woodside, Town of Portola Valley, and City of Half Moon Bay. The OES was responsible for coordinating the response from the State of California Department of Water Resources to inspect several areas of “boils” (water seeping below the levees) along the San Francisquito Creek Levee in East Palo Alto. Immediate action had to be taken to mitigate the potential undermining of the levee to prevent major damage to the community. The OES continued to work with and support the affected cities and areas of unincorporated San Mateo County.

On January 2, 2013, the County Manager as Director of Emergency Services for the County of San Mateo proclaimed the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency. The damage associated with the storm of December 23, 2012, has been estimated at \$2.3 million and is expected to increase as further surveys and inspections are conducted.

The affected cities intend on issuing their own proclamations of local emergency.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Approval of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by all affected agencies responding together to mitigate the threat or existence of a local emergency.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Projected
Number of incidents responded to by OES Staff	44	50
Percent of emergency incidents responded to within one hour	100%	100%

FISCAL IMPACT:

A declaration of a State of Emergency could facilitate the reimbursement of expenses of cities, towns, and special districts and the County for resources expended in the response to the storm of December 23, 2012.