

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO ADOPT THE STATEWIDE PROTOCOL FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS AS ESTABLISHED BY SENATE BILL 821

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, On Sept. 21, 2018, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bill 821 which provides a tool for a local jurisdiction to improve communication with its citizens in the event of a disaster; and

WHEREAS, SB 821 would authorize each county, including a city and county, to develop a mechanism to access the contact information of resident accountholders through the records of a public utility or other agency responsible for water service, waste and recycling services, or other property-related services for the sole purpose of enrolling county residents in a county-operated public emergency warning system; and

WHEREAS, SB821 would also specify that any county that develops such a mechanism would be required to include a procedure to enable a resident to opt out of the warning system and not use the information gathered for any purpose other than for emergency notification; and

WHEREAS, California has experienced 6,906 wildfires in 2018, damaging over 1.5 million acres of land and resulting in 14 deaths and dozens of non-fatal injuries; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, residents affected by the wildfires felt that they did not have adequate access to informative and life-saving information; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, San Mateo County launched SMC Alert which is a free, opt-in and county-wide emergency alert notification system via email, cell phones, tablets or voice messages to landlines in order to inform residents in the case of natural disasters and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, in San Mateo County, only 9 percent of residents are enrolled into SMC alert which means over 690,000 SMC residents do not have direct and immediate information coming from informed local government entities during regional crises or threats of emergency; and

WHEREAS, SMC Alert is administered by the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Emergency Services is a joint powers authority overseen by the Emergency Services Council, a board comprised of representatives of the county and each of its 20 cities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors encourage the Office of Emergency Services to adopt the statewide protocol for emergency notifications as allowed under SB 821 and to develop an opt-out system for residents who do not want to receive the alerts.

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