



County of San Mateo
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 4
File #: 20-625

Board Meeting Date: 8/19/2020

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Warren Slocum, Supervisor, District 4
Don Horsley, Supervisor, District 3
Subject: Proclamation of Local Emergency

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Proclamation of Local Emergency by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo due to the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires.

BACKGROUND:

Government Code Section 8630 and Chapter 2.46 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code authorizes the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County of San Mateo ("County") is threatened by conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the County which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County. Pursuant to the Government Code, the continuing need for such proclamations must be reviewed by the governing board of the adopting agency at least once every sixty days.

DISCUSSION:

Beginning on August 18, 2020, fires in the southern portion of San Mateo County that are collectively referred to as the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires, which appear to have been caused by lightning strikes related to atypical weather patterns, have given rise to conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the County.

These fires present major challenges to the County and Cal Fire due to difficult access and a lack of resources to combat fires in the vicinity. Significant winds are likely to continue pushing the fires to the south and east. So far, approximately 10,000 acres have burned and evacuations have been ordered, with more expected. An evacuation center has been established at Pescadero High School. In addition to risks posed to public and private facilities, the fires pose a risk to timber that is reportedly valued at approximately \$1.5 billion dollars.

Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency throughout the state related to fires caused by the current extreme heat and lightning strikes.

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 and may assist the County in establishing eligibility for cost recovery funds related to the fires.