PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY DIRECTOR OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE OCTOBER 2021 STORM AND
REQUEST TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM TO PROCLAIM A STATE OF
EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code empowers the County of Santa Barbara, Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8558(c) defines a “Local Emergency” as: “the duty proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor’s warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat”; and

WHEREAS, the Alisal Fire began burning in central Santa Barbara County near the Alisal Reservoir on October 11, 2021. As of October 24, 2021, the Alisal Fire has burned 16,970 acres, is 97% contained, destroyed 12 residences and damaged one outbuilding, caused significant watershed damage, and created a significant burn scar.; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2021, the Board of Supervisors executed a Proclamation of Local Emergency and adopted Resolution No. 21-189, finding that the Alisal Fire creates conditions of extreme peril, constitutes a local emergency, and warrants a request to the Governor of California to proclaim a State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service’s Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team is continuing to evaluate soil burn severity from the Alisal Fire, and a California State Watershed Emergency Recovery Team (WERT) is assessing types and locations of threats to life, safety and property from debris flows, flooding, rockfall, and surface erosion that are elevated due to the Alisal Fire. Their initial findings as of October 23, 2021 indicate the Alisal Fire has burned significant portions of critical watershed; the area has steep topography; silt, rock and material are already accumulating within the chutes and watercourses; and the area now poses serious risks of rock falls, flooding and debris flows in the impacted canyons which include residences, agricultural and ranching land, recreational facilities, and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2021 the National Weather Service issued a Flash Flood Watch in effect for the Alisal Fire burn area for October 25, 2021. The National Weather Service predicts rain to start Sunday evening and for moderate to heavy rain to impact the Alisal Fire burn area in the early morning hours of Monday, October 25, 2021, with the potential for rainfall rates of up to one inch per hour, and that significant mud and debris flows will be possible in and around the Alisal Fire burn area; and
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WHEREAS, on October 22, 2021, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office issued an Evacuation Warning due to potential rock falls, flooding, and or debris flows in the Alisal Fire burn scar area. And based on updated weather forecasts, as well as initial BAER and WERT findings, on October 23, 2021, the Sheriff’s Office upgraded the protective actions to an Evacuation Order (“Order”) for residents in the burn scar area due to the incoming storm and potential risk to life safety. The Order is effective Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 12:00 PM (noon) and applies to the following areas in and around the Alisal Fire burn scar: west of Las Flores Canyon, east of Mariposa Reina, south of West Camino Cielo, and down to the ocean. Evacuation shelters for residents and animals have been coordinated and are ready to open at noon on Sunday; and

WHEREAS, this storm is predicted to cause conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara. These conditions are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to the damage that will likely be caused by this storm and receive any needed funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act, upon request, as well as any other funding both State and Federal funds that may be available; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is not in session.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists in the County of Santa Barbara for the entire Santa Barbara Operational Area and that:

1. All the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. The conditions of extreme peril are not the result of labor controversy; and
3. This proclamation of local emergency, invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8550 et seq.), Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12 and all other applicable laws, to be used by authorized personnel of the County of Santa Barbara; and
4. Pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(b), the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to require emergency services of any county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any county department or agency; and
5. A copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be posted in a publicly accessible location at the County Administration Building, and County personnel shall endeavor to make copies of this Proclamation available to news media; and
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6. A copy of this proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with the state law; that the Governor waive any regulations that may hinder emergency protective measures and recovery efforts and that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other State and Federal funds that may be available, upon County request for such assistance; and

7. This Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors, and extended, or unless sooner terminated; and

8. Governor Newsom is requested to proclaim a State of Emergency as a result of this October 2021 storm.

Dated: October 24, 2021
Time: 1:30 pm

[Signature]
County Executive Officer/
Director of Emergency Services
County of Santa Barbara