



Operational Area Emergency Operations Center

LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency (by Director of Emergency Services)

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 833 of the County of San Benito empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when said County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and when the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency finds that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the County due to the following:

- 1) Starting in late December 2022, severe weather storms began to impact Northern California. A severe storm on December 31, 2022, brought heavy rain and high winds to the region. A strong system began on January 4, 2023, resulting in multiple significant rainfall/wind events causing damage to public infrastructure and property within San Benito County.
- 2) Damages to infrastructure have included localized flooding, roadway slope erosion, and embankment slip-outs, debris flows, landslides, and culvert failure affecting the safety of said roadways; obstruction of public roadways from storm water, storm debris, and roadway failure; damage to storm drain infrastructure; and damage to public and private utilities and damage to public facilities.
- 3) Damages have resulted in road closures, areas of isolation, loss of critical infrastructure affecting the public's safety and repose.
- 4) Community members experiencing homelessness and living in rivers, creeks, and stream beds are at particular risk of harm to their well-being, including life-threatening harm, due to their heightened exposure to flooding, downed trees, and/or downed power lines.
- 5) Rain and windy conditions are expected to persist into the next few weeks of January, further exacerbating hazard conditions and hampering opportunities for clean-up and recovery.
- 6) The County Emergency Operations Center was activated on January 4 2023. Ongoing efforts to respond to, mitigate, and recover from the storms and their cumulative impacts will require the cooperation of public and private agency partners throughout the San Benito County Operational Area, and the State of California.
- 7) The cost of response, mitigation, and recovery efforts has imposed extraordinary expenses on the County and local governments.
- 8) The aforementioned conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency and immediate action is necessary to mitigate public calamity.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is not in session (and cannot immediately be called into session),

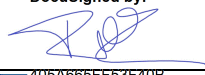
NOW THEREFORE, the Director of Emergency Services hereby:

1. Proclaims that a local emergency now exists throughout said County; and
2. Requests that the Governor of the State of California proclaim a State of Emergency for the County of San Benito and request a federal declaration to provide assistance including, but not limited to, California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA), Federal Individual Assistance Act, and U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration, to assist with losses and emergency repairs required by the County and affected cities within the County.

The local emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services and the emergency organization of this County shall be those prescribed by state law, ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the County of San Benito.

By County Administrative Officer:

DocuSigned by:

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Approved as to form:

Date: 1/15/2023

DocuSigned by:

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County Counsel

Date: 1/15/2023