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December 4, 2018

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura

Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District

Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura CA 93009

Subject: Receive and File a Report on the Proclamation of a Local Emergency Resulting from the Borderline Shooting and the Hill and Woolsey Fires and the Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency Resulting from the Fires, as Ratified and Proclaimed by Your Board on November 13, 2018.

Recommendation:

Receive and file a report on the proclamation of a local emergency resulting from the Borderline shooting on November 7, 2018, and the Hill and Woolsey Fires that began on November 8, 2018, and the proclamation of a local health emergency resulting from the fires, as ratified and proclaimed by your Board on November 13, 2018.

Fiscal Impact:

Expenses related to the fires are being compiled by County agencies, departments and dependent special districts. The federal disaster declaration for California made on November 9, 2018, enables the County to apply for some reimbursement of the costs of disaster-related response and activities. Additionally, a major disaster declaration issued by the federal government on November 12, 2018, helps provide additional reimbursement for services such as debris removal and public and individual assistance.

Discussion:

On November 7, 2018, around 11:30 p.m. a mass shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks claimed 13 lives, including that of a Ventura County Sheriff's sergeant. Shortly thereafter, on November 8, 2018 at approximately 2:04 p.m., the Hill Fire began in the Hill Canyon area of Santa Rosa Valley, quickly followed by the start of the Woolsey Fire at approximately 2:38 p.m. near Simi Valley.

The Hill Fire burned approximately 4,531 acres and is 100% contained. The Woolsey burned approximately 98,362 acres and is also 100% contained. There have been no deaths in Ventura County in connection with the fires although three fatalities were reported in the portion of the Woolsey Fire that burned into Los Angeles County. Wide areas of the County, including Newbury Park, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo Springs, California State University Channel Islands, Rancho Sierra Vista, Westlake, Bell Canyon, Oak Park, Point Mugu, Point Mugu State Park and communities along the Pacific Coast Highway, have been impacted. Damage assessment is underway with preliminary estimates of 139 structures destroyed and 81 damaged in Ventura County. Firefighters are continuing their work to guard against flare-ups building fire lines. Recovery efforts have begun, including hazardous debris removal coordination with the state.

Acting pursuant to the powers granted by virtue of section 5323-1 of the Ventura County Ordinance Code, as amended, for occasions when your Board is not in session, the Sheriff, acting as Director of Disaster Services, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency on November 9, 2018, determining that the shooting and the fires constituted conditions of disaster and posed extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within Ventura County. On November 9, 2018, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, serving in the capacity of Acting Governor, declared a state of emergency in Ventura County and Los Angeles County due to the fires. A federal disaster declaration also was issued on November 9, 2018, opening federal assistance for both the Hill and Woolsey Fires as well as other active California wildfires. In addition, a major disaster declaration was issued by the federal government on November 12, 2018, helping to provide additional reimbursement for services such as debris removal and public and individual assistance.

Also, on November 9, 2018, pursuant to his authority under Health and Safety Code section 101080, Dr. Robert Levin, the Health Officer of Ventura County, in conjunction with William C. Stratton, Director of the Ventura County Environmental Health Division, a duly authorized deputy local health officer, proclaimed the existence of a local health emergency arising from the wildfires.

On November 13, 2018, your Board ratified the Sheriff's proclamation of local emergency and ratified and extended the County Health Officer's proclamation of a local health emergency. In an executive order made by Governor Edmund Brown on November 14, 2018, the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 101080 and Government Code section 8630 for regular renewals of local health emergency and local emergency declarations were waived. This means that the local emergency and local health emergency proclamations adopted by your Board on November 13, 2018, will remain in effect until they are terminated by a future action of your Board. Once hazardous debris removal is completed, we anticipate we will return to your Board for adoption of a resolution terminating the local emergencies.

County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller's Office have reviewed this item. Please contact me at 654-2681, Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen at 389-9704, or Sheriff Bill Ayub at 654-2315 with any questions.

Sincerely,



m.p. Michael Powers
County Executive Officer