

December 4, 2018

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Catherine Rodriguez
County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin
Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Subject: Receive and File the 2018 Thomas Fire Recovery After-Action Review Report; Approve the Improvement Plan Contained Within the Report; and Provide Direction on Any Amendments to the Report

Recommendations:

1. That your Board receive and file the County of Ventura's 2018 Thomas Fire Recovery After-Action Review report.
2. That your Board approve the Improvement Plan contained within the Recovery After-Action Review report.
3. That your Board provide direction to staff on any amendments your Board desires to the Recovery After-Action Review report.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

None. There are no additional County costs associated with this Board action, it is anticipated that all Improvement Plan efforts will be conducted with existing County Agency and Department staff.

Discussion:

The Thomas Fire began December 4th, 2017, exactly one year ago to the day. It is fitting that we mark this anniversary by reflecting on the event and sharing the lessons we learned. The Thomas Fire Recovery After-Action Review (AAR) process was initiated in its informal capacity during the early stages of the Thomas Fire incident. Spontaneous debriefs took place frequently during the regular meetings of the Ventura County Thomas Fire Recovery Task Force. The improvements identified during the regular meetings were captured within the notes and catalogued for inclusion in the Recovery AAR report.

The formal AAR process was initiated in August of 2018 with the goal of identifying strengths and areas for improvement observed during the recovery activities. This process included representation from 7 County agencies, the Unified Recovery Coordination Group which including participants from the cities of Ojai and Ventura, and the Thomas Fire Long Term Recovery Group, a gathering of community-based non-profit organizations also involved in the Thomas Fire recovery effort.

The strengths and areas for improvement identified in this report affect the County's ability to facilitate recovery activities after a disaster and are not specific to any one organization. Although certain improvements may have a primary entity identified as responsible for its completion, cataloguing and implementing solutions to ensure strengths are repeatable and areas for improvement are remedied will in many cases require the active involvement and support of a wide range of recovery stakeholders.

The resulting improvement plan contained within the report serves as a roadmap to enhance the outcome of disaster recovery efforts and potentially guide future investment decisions. While this process is focused on the events surrounding the recovery efforts after the beginning of the Thomas Fire, it is designed to strengthen the County's capacity to effectively recover and rebuild in a coordinated fashion after any catastrophic disaster or incident. Several of the identified areas for improvement have been implemented as part of our early recovery response from the recent Hill/Woolsey Fires.

On November 1, 2018, the Recovery After-Action Review report was presented and opened for discussion to the Ventura County Emergency Planning Council (EPC). Following the presentation, the EPC voted unanimously to submit a copy of the report to your Board.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel.

Please direct any questions you may have to Matt Carroll, County Recovery Director, at 654-2681 or Dr. Rachel Linares, at 654-2272.

Sincerely,



DR. RACHEL LINARES
Continuous Process Improvement Manager



MATT CARROLL
County Recovery Director



 MIKE POWERS
County Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
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Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – 2018 Thomas Fire Recovery After-Action Review Report