



MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors **DATE:** August 9, 2022
FROM: Jane Christenson, Acting County Executive Officer
BY: David Atkinson, PE, Assistant Director of Emergency Services
SUBJECT: Resolution to Reaffirm a Local Emergency in Placer County due to the December 26, 2021 Winter Storms

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a Resolution to reaffirm a local emergency in Placer County due to the December 26, 2021 winter storms.

BACKGROUND

The winter storms that began the night of December 26, 2021, resulted in record setting amounts of snow in the foothills and mountain areas of Placer County. Extreme amounts of snow combined with high winds resulted in downed trees and powerlines. At Donner Pass, officials with the University of California Berkeley's Central Sierra Snow Laboratory reported snowfall from these storms "smashed" the snowiest December record of 179 inches, set in 1970, for a total of 214 inches.

This set of storms left thousands of Placer County residents without power for several days. Roads were impassible due to snow accumulation. This included Interstate 80 which was closed for multiple days due to white out conditions, heavy snow, and downed power lines. These impacts resulted in numerous calls for assistance from first responders, affecting life safety and public safety resources.

Multiple levels of California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) were activated to provide an effective and coordinated response to the multitude of impacts. These actions included CalFire's establishment of an Incident Command System (ICS) structure to streamline command and control of the regional fire agency storm response. Acting as the SEMS Operational Area, the Placer County Office of Emergency Services (OES) activated its Emergency Operations Center from December 27, 2021 to January 10, 2022, to support the needs of emergency and public safety agencies.

Two days into the response, it became clear that there would be significant costs associated with the response efforts by the various local agencies as well as the potential for significant damage to critical infrastructure. As allowed by County Code, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency due to the December 26, 2021 winter storms on December 29, 2021.

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Conditions created by the winter storms continue to exist and constitute a local emergency. Public right-of-ways still contain significant debris from fallen trees. Residents throughout the county are working to clear substantial debris from their properties before fire season, utilizing options including the Residential Chipper Program and transporting debris to transfer stations. Additionally, utility agencies are working to fully repair powerlines and water infrastructure, including drainage routes and the Boardman canal. Both county code and state law require that your Board review the emergency proclamation every sixty (60) days and either reaffirm or terminate the local emergency proclamation. Reaffirmation of this Local Emergency Proclamation will enable Placer County and partner agencies throughout the county to seek and obtain state and federal funds if available and ensure the County's resources and economy have the means to endure this challenge more effectively.

California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) funding was approved at the end of May, 2022. Placer County OES is working with CalOES to begin the recovery process and assess the scope of projects.

FISCAL IMPACT

Potential fiscal impact is currently unknown.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Resolution to Reaffirm a Local Emergency

Exhibit 1 - Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency dated December 29, 2021

Exhibit 2 - Resolution 2022-001 Ratification of Local Emergency dated January 4, 2022

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

**In the matter of: REAFFIRM THE PROCLAMATION OF
THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE
COUNTY OF PLACER DUE TO THE DECEMBER 26,
2021 WINTER STORMS**

Resolution No.: _____

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a Regular Meeting held August 9, 2022, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the Placer County Code authorizes the Director of Emergency Services of Placer County to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency whenever the County is affected or likely to be affected by a local emergency and the Placer County Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.88.060 of the Placer County Code requires whenever a local emergency is declared by a local official designated by ordinance, said local emergency shall not remain in effect for more than seven (7) days unless it has been ratified by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2021, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency due to the December 26, 2021 and ongoing winter storms; and

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2022, at a Special Meeting, the Placer County Board of Supervisors ratified the local emergency proclamation with the adoption of Resolution No. 2022-001; and

WHEREAS, starting on December 26, 2021, severe winter storms occurred within and around Placer County resulting in record setting amounts of snow in Placer County; and

WHEREAS, because of the wind and extreme snowfall hundreds of trees have fallen, resulting in damaged structures, damage to critical infrastructure, downed power lines, and obstructed roads; and

WHEREAS, the winter storms caused thousands of Placer County residents to lose power for several days; and

WHEREAS, there were numerous calls for assistance, resulting in the need for additional life safety and public safety resources, and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the Placer County Office of Emergency Services activated its emergency operations center to support the needs of emergency and public services agencies across the operational area; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the City of Colfax proclaimed a local emergency due to severe winter storms and is receiving mutual aid from Placer County and Placer County Fire; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the Foresthill Fire Protection District sent a letter requesting that Placer County proclaim a local emergency following a vote by their Board of Directors, due to ongoing severe weather conditions posing a life safety threat to the residents of the Foresthill Divide; and

WHEREAS, there are likely to be damages not immediately evident due to heavy snow that may delay damage assessments that could ultimately result in the need to request assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, public right-of-ways continue to contain significant debris, residents throughout the county are in the process of clearing substantial debris from their properties, and utilities are in the process of making permanent repairs to damaged infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned conditions created by the winter storms constitute a local emergency and warrant and necessitate the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby reaffirms the December 29, 2021 proclamation of a local emergency due to the December 26, 2021, and ongoing winter storms due to the significant, ongoing, and possible undiscovered impacts of the storms in Placer County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every sixty (60) days and shall terminate the emergency as soon as local conditions warrant.

BE IT PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors for the County of Placer, State of California at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors on August 9, 2022 by the vote listed above.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1 - Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency dated December 29, 2021

Exhibit 2 - Resolution 2022-001 Ratification of Local Emergency dated January 4, 2022

**PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF PLACER
DUE TO THE DECEMBER 26, 2021, AND ONGOING WINTER STORMS**

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630 authorizes the proclamation of a local emergency by an official designated by ordinance adopted by the local governing body; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8558 states that a local emergency means the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by conditions including storms; and

WHEREAS, whenever a local emergency is declared by a local official designated by ordinance, said local emergency shall not remain in effect for more than seven (7) days unless it has been ratified by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the Placer County Code authorizes the Director of Emergency Services of Placer County to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency whenever the County is affected or likely to be affected by a local emergency and the Placer County Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, starting on December 26, 2021, and ongoing, severe winter storms have occurred, continue to occur and are likely to continue within and around Placer County resulting in record setting amounts of snow to Placer County; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the wind and extreme snowfall hundreds of trees have fallen, resulting in damaged structures, critical infrastructure, downed power lines, and obstructed roads; and

WHEREAS, the winter storm caused thousands of Placer County residents to lose power with the potential to be out of service for several days; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous calls for assistance, resulting in the need for additional life safety and public safety resources, and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the Placer County Office of Emergency Services activated its emergency operations center to support the needs of emergency and public services agencies across the operational area; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the City of Colfax proclaimed a local emergency due to severe winter storms and is receiving mutual aid from Placer County and Placer County Fire; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the Foresthill Fire Protection District sent a letter requesting that Placer County proclaim a local emergency following a vote by their Board of Directors, due to ongoing severe weather conditions posing a life safety threat to the residents of the Foresthill Divide; and

WHEREAS, there are likely to be damages not immediately evident due to heavy snow that may delay damage assessments that could ultimately result in the need to request assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned conditions of extreme peril created by the winter storm constitute a local emergency and warrant and necessitate the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session to proclaim a local emergency caused by the winter storm.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Placer that as of December 26, 2021, a local emergency now exists in Placer County as a result of the winter storm, which constitutes a substantial threat to the health and safety of thousands of residents across the County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Office of Emergency Services of Placer County shall be those prescribed by State law, and by ordinances, resolutions, and memorandums of understanding of Placer County; and that this emergency proclamation shall expire seven (7) days after issuance unless this emergency proclamation is confirmed and ratified by the Placer County Board of Supervisors; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State law; that the Governor of California, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in Placer County; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

Dated: December 29, 2021

BY: 
FOR Todd Leopold by direction
Todd Leopold
Director of Emergency Services
County of Placer

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of: **RATIFICATION OF A PROCLAMATION
OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY BY
THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE
COUNTY OF PLACER DUE TO THE DECEMBER 26,
2021, AND ONGOING WINTER STORMS**

Resolution No.: 2022-001

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer
at a Special meeting held January 4, 2022, by the following vote:

Ayes: HOLMES, JONES, GUSTAFSON, WEYGANDT

Noes: NONE

Absent: GORE

THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT IS A CORRECT
COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE
ATTEST

MEGAN WOOD
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County
of Placer, State of California

Deputy Clerk

Signed and approved by me after its passage.


Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:


Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the Placer County Code authorizes the Director of Emergency Services of Placer County to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency whenever the County is affected or likely to be affected by a local emergency and the Placer County Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.88.060 of the Placer County Code requires whenever a local emergency is declared by a local official designated by ordinance, said local emergency shall not remain in effect for more than seven (7) days unless it has been ratified by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2021, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency due to the December 26, 2021 and ongoing winter storms; and

WHEREAS, starting on December 26, 2021, and ongoing, severe winter storms have occurred, continue to occur and are likely to continue within and around Placer County resulting in record setting amounts of snow to Placer County; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the wind and extreme snowfall hundreds of trees have fallen, resulting in damaged structures, damage to critical infrastructure, downed power lines, and obstructed roads; and

WHEREAS, the winter storms caused thousands of Placer County residents to lose power with the potential to be out of service for several days; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous calls for assistance, resulting in the need for additional life safety and public safety resources, and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the Placer County Office of Emergency Services activated its emergency operations center to support the needs of emergency and public services agencies across the operational area; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the City of Colfax proclaimed a local emergency due to severe winter storms and is receiving mutual aid from Placer County and Placer County Fire; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the Foresthill Fire Protection District sent a letter requesting that Placer County proclaim a local emergency following a vote by their Board of Directors, due to ongoing severe weather conditions posing a life safety threat to the residents of the Foresthill Divide; and

WHEREAS, there are likely to be damages not immediately evident due to heavy snow that may delay damage assessments that could ultimately result in the need to request assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned conditions of extreme peril created by the winter storms constitute a local emergency and warrant and necessitate the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby ratifies the December 29, 2021 proclamation of a local emergency due to the December 26, 2021, and ongoing winter storms due to the significant, ongoing, and possible undiscovered impacts of the storms in Placer County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every month and shall terminate the emergency as soon as local conditions warrant.

BE IT PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State law; that the Governor of California pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in Placer County; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that response and recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors for the County of Placer, State of California at a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors on January 4, 2022 by the vote listed above.

