



**MEMORANDUM**  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
County of Placer

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors **DATE:** September 12, 2023  
**FROM:** Jane Christenson, County Executive Officer  
**BY:** David Atkinson, PE, Assistant Director of Emergency Services  
**SUBJECT:** Reaffirm the Proclamation of a Local Emergency in Placer County due to the 2023 February Winter Storms

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adopt a Resolution to reaffirm the Proclamation of a Local Emergency in Placer County due to the 2023 February Winter Storms.

**BACKGROUND**

When a condition of extreme peril or potential peril to the safety of persons and property exists, and the condition is beyond the capability of local forces to control effectively, the Board of Supervisors or a person authorized by the Board may proclaim that a local emergency exists. Placer County may proclaim a local emergency to exist due to a specific situation, such as flood, fire, storm, earthquake, epidemic, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, or other conditions, as authorized by Section 8630 of the California Government Code.

On February 26, 2023, the first in a series of noteworthy winter storms impacted Placer County bringing heavy snowfall in conjunction with high winds to the region over several days. Heavy snow and dangerous white-out conditions resulted in the multi-day closure of Interstate 80, which serves as a critical transportation corridor for the region. Power outages for several thousand customers in Placer resulted in disruptions to residents, businesses, and government services such as schools and libraries. As of this report, there are still over 4,000 service connects without power. As a result of the winter storm, Placer County Department of Public Works performed 24/7 snow removal operations to clear roads and ensure first responder and utility access to residents. Additionally, excessive snowfall contributed to an avalanche that impacted residents in Olympic Valley, and cumulative rainfall caused a landslide in Colfax, resulting in evacuations and damage to residences during both events.

Given the realized and potential impacts of these winter storms, the Placer Operational Area Emergency Operations Center was activated on February 26, 2023 with the objective of providing support to public safety and critical infrastructure staff in their response efforts related to the winter storms.

As allowed by County Code, the County Executive Officer acting in her capacity as the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency on March 3, 2023, due to the ongoing response to the 2023 February Winter Storms, which was ratified by the Board of Supervisors

Honorable Board of Supervisors

September 12, 2023

Ratify the Proclamation of a Local Emergency in Placer County due to the 2023 February Winter Storms

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on March 7, 2023, with the adoption of Resolution 2023-044. On March 8, 2023, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed that a state of emergency exists in 21 counties, including Placer County, due to the impacts of these winter storms.

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 enables Placer County and partner agencies throughout the County to seek and obtain state and federal funds and ensure the County's resources and economy have the means to endure this challenge more effectively.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Fiscal impacts related to the 2023 February Winter Storms throughout the county is estimated to be \$4,030,635. The fiscal impact to the County of Placer is estimated to be \$3,822,228. The County of Placer's estimated costs and impacts related to these winter storms is currently being evaluated by CalOES and FEMA for inclusion in Federal Disaster Declaration 4699.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - Resolution to Ratify the Proclamation of a Local Emergency in Placer County due to the 2023 February Winter Storms

Exhibit 1 – Placer County Proclamation of a Local Emergency due to the 2023 February Winter Storms dated March 3, 2023

Exhibit 2 – Resolution 2023-044 – Resolution to Ratify a Proclamation of Local Emergency dated March 7, 2023

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

**In the matter of: A RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM  
THE PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY  
IN PLACER COUNTY DUE TO THE 2023  
FEBRUARY WINTER STORMS**

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a special meeting held September 12, 2023, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of said Board

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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, on February 26, 2023, the first in a series of noteworthy winter storms (the “2023 February Winter Storms”) impacted Placer County bringing heavy snowfall in conjunction with high winds to the region over several days; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2023, Placer County Emergency Operations Center activated to respond to county-wide emergency service needs and provide resources; and

WHEREAS, heavy snow and dangerous, white-out travel conditions caused the closure of Interstate 80 for six days; and

WHEREAS, excessive snowfall contributed to an avalanche that impacted residents in Olympic Valley resulting in evacuations and damage to residences; and

WHEREAS, cumulative rainfall contributed to a landslide that impacted residents in Colfax resulting in evacuations and damage to residences; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 February Winter Storms caused Placer County residents to lose power for several days resulting in impacts to residents, businesses, schools, and government services; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2023 February Winter Storms, trees stressed by drought and previous significant winter storms have broken or fallen, resulting in blocked roadways and damage to structures; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2023 February Winter Storms, Placer County Department of Public Works engaged in 24/7 snow removal operations to clear roads and ensure first responder and utility access; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2023, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency due to the 2023 February Winter Storms (the “Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency”); and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2023, the Placer County Board of Supervisors ratified the local emergency proclamation with the adoption of Resolution No. 2023-044; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2023, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed that a state of emergency exists in 21 counties, including Placer County; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions, threats, and ongoing repairs created by these winter storms constitute a local emergency and warrant and necessitate the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby reaffirms the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency dated March 3, 2023 due to the significant, ongoing, and possible undiscovered impacts due to the 2023 February Winter Storms.

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 FURTHER RESOLVED, 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 September 12, 2023 by the vote listed above.

Exhibit 1 – Placer County Proclamation of a Local Emergency due to the 2023 February Winter Storms dated March 3, 2023

Exhibit 2 – Resolution 2023-044 – Resolution to Ratify a Proclamation of Local Emergency dated March 7, 2023

**PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL  
EMERGENCY BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY  
SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF PLACER DUE TO  
THE 2023 LATE FEBRUARY 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**, on February 26, 2023, the first in a series of noteworthy winter storms impacted Placer County bringing heavy snowfall in conjunction with high winds to the region over several days, and

**WHEREAS**, on February 26, 2023, Placer County Emergency Operations Center activated to respond to county-wide emergency service needs and provide resources; and

**WHEREAS**, heavy snow and dangerous, white-out travel conditions caused the closure of Interstate 80 for six days; and

**WHEREAS**, excessive snowfall contributed to an avalanche that impacted residents in Olympic Valley resulting in evacuations and damage to residences; and

**WHEREAS**, the winter storms caused Placer County residents to lose power for several days resulting in impacts to residents, businesses, schools, and government services; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the winter storms, trees stressed by drought and previous significant winter storms have broken or fallen, resulting in blocked roadways and damage to structures; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the winter storms, Placer County Department of Public Works is running 24/7 snow removal operations to clear roads and ensure first responder and utility access; and

**WHEREAS**, the storms series is expected to continue for at least the next several days and is likely to exhaust local resources during extended response and will require additional state resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid conditions and ongoing threats created by these winter storms 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 storms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** by the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Placer that as of March 3, 2023, a local emergency now exists in Placer County as a result of the 2023 Late February Winter Storms, 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; that response and recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedites access to state and federal resources and any other appropriate state and federal disaster relief programs.

Dated: March 3, 2023

BY:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Christenson  
Director of Emergency Services  
County of Placer

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

**In the matter of: A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE  
PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN  
PLACER COUNTY DUE TO THE 2023 FEBRUARY  
WINTER STORMS**

Resolution No.: 2023-044

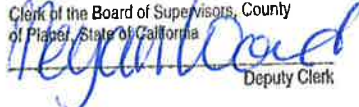
The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer  
at a special meeting held March 7, 2023, by the following vote:

Ayes: GORE, LANDON, JONES, GUSTAFSON, HOLMES

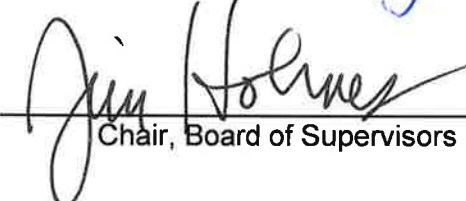
Noes: NONE

Absent: NONE

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

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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, on February 26, 2023, the first in a series of noteworthy and continuing winter storms (the “2023 February Winter Storms”) impacted Placer County bringing heavy snowfall in conjunction with high winds to the region over several days; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2023, Placer County Emergency Operations Center activated to respond to county-wide emergency service needs and provide resources; and

WHEREAS, heavy snow and dangerous, white-out travel conditions caused the closure of Interstate 80 for six days; and

WHEREAS, excessive snowfall contributed to an avalanche that impacted residents in Olympic Valley resulting in evacuations and damage to residences; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 February Winter Storms caused Placer County residents to lose power for several days resulting in impacts to residents, businesses, schools, and government services; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2023 February Winter Storms, trees stressed by drought and previous significant winter storms have broken or fallen, resulting in blocked roadways and damage to structures; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2023 February Winter Storms, Placer County Department of Public Works engaged in 24/7 snow removal operations to clear roads and ensure first responder and utility access; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2023, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency due to the 2023 February Winter Storms (the “Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency”); and

WHEREAS, the continuing storm series is likely to exhaust local resources during extended response and will require additional state resources; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions and ongoing threats created by the 2023 February Winter Storms constitute a local emergency and warrant and necessitate ratification of the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency issued on March 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer was not in session at the time the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency was issued and could not be immediately be called into session at the time to proclaim a local emergency caused by the 2023 February Winter Storms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby ratifies the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency dated March 3, 2023 due to the significant, ongoing and possible undiscovered impacts due to the 2023 February Winter Storms; and

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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 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 state and 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 the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on March 7, 2023 by the vote listed above.

**EXHIBITS:**

Exhibit 1 – Placer County Proclamation of a Local Emergency due to the 2023 February Winter Storms dated March 3, 2023