



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

DATE: January 18, 2006
BOARD MEETING DATE: January 24, 2006
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: N/A
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
SUBJECT: Local State of Emergency and Presidential Declaration

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a resolution proclaiming the existence of a local state of emergency in San Mateo County related to the storm of December 31, 2005 and request a presidential declaration.

VISION ALIGNMENT:

Commitment: ensure basic health and safety for all

Goal 7: Maintain and enhance public safety of all residents and visitors.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning on December 30, 2005, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) began notifying city and public safety agencies throughout the county of the California Weather Service (CWS) alert to the significant incoming winter storms approaching Northern California. On December 31, 2005 the storm resulted in significant damage in 23 Northern California counties. Throughout the extended holiday weekend, San Mateo County OES called-in public safety personnel from throughout the county, as well as County of San Mateo Public Works, Health Department, Human Services Agency, Information Services Department and Emergency Medical Services personnel to provide assistance.

Damage in San Mateo County included numerous landslides, road closures, downed power lines that left thousands of homes, business and public agencies without power for extended periods of time. There was flooding along the San Francisquito Creek in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, Pescadero and in bay front areas of Redwood City. Limited and temporary evacuations were necessary and an emergency shelter was opened in Redwood City at the Community Center on Roosevelt Avenue.

County facilities suffered damage: the power outage rendered the County security card system in active at the Redwood City County Center. Personnel were unable to access County Center buildings as well as move emergency vehicles from the basement of the parking facility. This flaw in the system has since been remedied. Flooding in Redwood City resulted in limited access to the Women's Jail and did irreparable damage to two of the Sheriff's buses parked at the Women's Jail. Auxiliary generators were required at two California Department of Forestry (CDF) stations: Pescadero and Edmonds Road, Redwood City. Due to age and their extended use during the power outage, the generators failed and replacements were required. Attached is a summary of the damage and cost estimates associated with this winter storm. As of this date, San Mateo County's reported public and private loss due to storm damage is estimated to be upwards of \$5.2 million.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose for the county declaring a state of local emergency is to position the county eligible for any type of State of Federal Disaster assistance for emergency protective measures, emergency construction repair and restoration. At 2:00 p.m., on December 31, 2005 I requested the Governor proclaim the existence of a local emergency in San Mateo County. On January 2, 2006 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in 23 counties, including San Mateo County. The California Board of Equalization (BOE) authorized emergency tax relief to those taxpayers and fee payers directly affected by the winter storms in the 23 counties with a declared local emergency. The special tax relief is a one-month extension of time to file returns and pay taxes and fees. Locally, property taxpayers maybe eligible for tax relief through the County Assessors Office, for property that was damaged by the storms.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Declaration of a local state of emergency provides a potential source for reimbursement of costs associated with the 2005-06 winter storms.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
AND REQUESTING GOVERNOR TO (1) PROCLAIM A STATE OF
EMERGENCY AND (2) REQUEST A PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, Ordinance Chapter 2.8 Article 2.8.8 of the San Mateo County Code 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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has been requested by the Director of Emergency Services of said county to proclaim the existence of a local emergency therein; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Supervisors does hereby find:

Those conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said county, caused by a series of winter storms that resulted in severe and damaging winds and rain starting on December 31, 2005. The heavy rains of upwards of 6 inches, wind gusts reaching 50 miles per hour, high surf of 20 to 25 foot swells, coupled with local high tides resulted in flooding and landslides affecting both public and private property in unincorporated areas and throughout the cities in San Mateo County; and

That the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout said county; and.

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 the county shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this county approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 24, 2006; and

It has now been found that local resources are unable to cope with the effects of said emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of California with the request that he proclaim the County of San Mateo to be in a state of emergency; and further that the Governor request a Presidential Declaration

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the State Director of the Office of Emergency Services.

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