




## County of Orange

### Memorandum

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March 13, 2023

To: Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board

From: Supervisor Katrina Foley, Fifth District 

Subject: Add item to March 14, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting Proclaiming a Local Emergency Regarding the 2022-2023 Winter Storm Events

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Orange County has been impacted by an onslaught of winter storms with little respite between events. From December 2022 through the present, our coastal communities have suffered ongoing impacts due to coastal flooding, high surf, erosion, and land saturation resulting in land movement and impacts to structures. On March 1, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to support disaster response and relief throughout California, but not in Orange County. The jurisdictions primarily impacted by these winter storms include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Newport Beach** – The backyard of a Dover Shores house in the City of Newport Beach collapsed, along with a chunk of the bluff beneath it during a downpour on Friday, March 3. The house was deemed uninhabitable, and its residents, as well as their neighbors which included a 90 year old, were forced to vacate their homes. Additional structures may be threatened due to slope instability. According to media reports, geologists have been surveying the area around the red-tagged home and report the ground is still shifting. The City of Newport Beach has provided an Initial Damage Estimate of \$1.4 million for emergency protective measures and debris removal, and \$1 million in potentially eligible Individual Assistance costs.
- **Laguna Beach** – The January storms destroyed a lifeguard tower with an estimated damage of \$96,000. During the most recent storms, a sinkhole opened that impacted a street, water line, gas line, and resulted in the temporary evacuation of residents. This impact is ongoing as incoming storms are likely to increase the damage; no estimate currently available and geology report pending.
- **Seal Beach** – The City of Seal Beach proclaimed an emergency on January 17, 2023. The severe winter storms damaged the pier and caused flooding to homes along the coast. Initial damage estimates are \$1.6 million.

- **San Clemente and Orange County Transportation Authority** – The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors proclaimed an emergency in October to support railroad track stabilization in southern San Clemente. With the ongoing storms, the remediation costs have increased by approximately \$1.5 million for additional land anchors and debris removal.
- **Santa Margarita Water District** – Land subsidence during the January storms caused infrastructure damages estimated at \$750,000.

### **Recommended Actions**

In accordance with Orange County section 3-1-6, and in coordination with the Director of Emergency Services, the Board may proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the Board is in session. Accordingly, I recommend that the Board take the following actions:

1. In accordance with Government Code section 54954.2(b)(2), and upon a two-thirds vote of the members present, find that there is a need to take immediate action to proclaim the existence of a local emergency regarding the 2022-2023 winter storm events, and that the need for this action came to the attention of the County and the Board subsequent to the agenda being posted on or about February 22, 2023.
2. Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the attached resolution proclaiming the existence of a local emergency relating to 2022-2023 winter storms and set review to determine need for continuing local emergency for May 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m., and every 60 days thereafter until terminated.

Proclaiming the existence of a local emergency will enable Orange County cities to seek assistance from the State of California, while also authorizing County departments and agencies take those actions, measures, and steps deemed necessary to assure the safety and welfare of Orange County citizens and property, including requesting mutual aid to the extent such aid is necessary.

**Attachment:** Proclamation of Winter Storm Local Emergency