

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

September 17, 2024

RATIFICATION OF PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE BRIDGE FIRE

Beginning on September 8, 2024, the Bridge Fire ignited in the Angeles National Forest and rapidly spread to surrounding areas in the County of Los Angeles (County). The Bridge Fire has burned over 47,000 acres so far and has necessitated evacuations of County residents, led to major road closures and power disruption, and required multiple human and pet sheltering operations. The Bridge Fire poses a threat to residential structures, businesses, and critical infrastructures in the area. Coordination, collaboration, and the combined forces of different jurisdictions are imperatively needed to effectively respond to and recover from these and other likely related events.

On September 10, 2024, the Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Chair), proclaimed the existence of a local emergency for the Bridge Fire (Proclamation of Local Emergency) in the County.

The Proclamation of Local Emergency enables the County to more effectively respond to the Bridge Fire, accelerate the procurement of vital supplies, seek and utilize mutual aid, and potentially obtain reimbursement and assistance from the State and federal government.

Pursuant to Government Code section 8630(b) and Los Angeles County Code section 2.68.110, the Proclamation of Local Emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors (Board).

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MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Ratify the attached Proclamation of Local Emergency made on September 10, 2024, for the Bridge Fire, in the County of Los Angeles. The Proclamation of Local Emergency shall remain in effect until its termination is proclaimed by the Board.
- 2) Forward a copy of the Proclamation of Local Emergency to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Director) and request the Director to find it acceptable in accordance with State law, make available recovery assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act, and expedite access to State and federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.
- 3) Direct County Departments to implement all assessment, assistance, and monitoring efforts as applicable.

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PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE BRIDGE FIRE BY THE CHAIR OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND REQUEST FOR A STATE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code provides that the Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Chair) may proclaim the existence of a local emergency, pursuant to Government Code section 8558(c), when the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) is not in session; and

WHEREAS, a "local emergency," is defined in Government Code section 8558(c)(1), in pertinent part, as follows: "[l]ocal emergency' means the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county . . . caused by conditions such as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, cyberterrorism, sudden and severe energy shortage, deenergization event . . . plant or animal infestation or disease . . . or an earthquake, or other conditions . . . which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat . . ."; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge Fire, which ignited in the Angeles National Forest and rapidly spread to surrounding areas in the County of Los Angeles (County), has burned over 34,000 acres. The Bridge Fire has necessitated evacuations of County residents, led to major road closures and power disruption, and required multiple human and pet sheltering operations. The Bridge Fire poses a threat to residential structures, businesses, and critical infrastructures in the area. Coordination, collaboration, and the combined forces of different jurisdictions are imperatively needed to effectively respond to and recover from these and other likely related events; and

WHEREAS, as of September 8, 2024, conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist as a result of the Bridge Fire in the County, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County, and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of local resources, and the ability to coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, and use mutual aid, will be critical to successfully responding to the Bridge Fire; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence of a local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chair finds that as a result of the Bridge Fire, conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist in the County, within the meaning of Government Code section 8558(c)(1), and such conditions are or will likely be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County, and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED by the Chair that a local emergency exists for the Bridge Fire in the County, and that the local emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED that, during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of the County shall be those prescribed by State law, by ordinances, and resolutions of the County; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Director) requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State law; that the Governor of the State of California (Governor), pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in Los Angeles County; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that 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.

Date: September 10, 2024



Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

