

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-11

Urgent  Routine

AGENDA DATE June 28, 2011

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Accept the Seventh and Final Update on Flooding in Various Locations in Stanislaus County and Approval to Terminate the Countywide Declaration of a Local Emergency

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept the seventh and final update on flooding in various locations in Stanislaus County.
2. Approval to terminate the Countywide declaration of a local emergency due to flooding in various locations in Stanislaus County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The complete fiscal impact associated with the flooding in various areas of Stanislaus County has yet to be quantified. Overall, we anticipate potential financial impacts including: private property damage, local crop damage, damage to County Parks, potential damage to roadways, bridges and other infrastructure, damage to local levees, increased staff overtime and operational costs.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2011-391

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**DISCUSSION:**

This past winter and early spring has brought rain and snowfall far above normal levels, resulting in river levels approaching and exceeding flood stage flows, and one Reclamation District declaring a local state of emergency based on concerns associated with the stability of a section of levee in their district. Given the current snow packs in the Sierra Mountains, water levels are anticipated to flow at or near capacity well into June, a factor that could well contribute to additional damage to some low-lying properties adjacent to the San Joaquin River and its tributaries.

On April 5, 2011, the Board of Supervisors approved an agenda item declaring a local state of emergency in Stanislaus County based upon a review of the flooding situation and the weather forecasts for Stanislaus County, and requested the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency based on a determination that locally available resources are inadequate to cope with the emergency.

On April 15, 2011, the Governor declared a State of Emergency for nineteen counties as a result of severe rain and related storm damage. Stanislaus County was included in the Governor's State of Emergency. Cal EMA and FEMA representatives toured the County on April 13, 2011.

On June 21, 2011, the County received a copy of a letter sent to the Governor from FEMA denying his request for a major disaster declaration for the State of California. Based on a review and site visit from FEMA, the agency has determined that the damage to the infrastructure was a result of three separate storms that occurred on March 14-16, March 17-22, and March 23-27, 2011. While there were numerous storms within California during March 15-27, 2011 that produced high winds and/or rainfall, the individual storms affected different parts of the State at different times. The agency felt that the storms were not severe or continuous and were not beyond the combined capabilities of the State and local governments.

Board of Supervisors' review of the emergency proclamation is required at least every 14 days to evaluate the need for continuing the local emergency. Based on the recent denial by FEMA, this agenda item is intended to terminate this Countywide declaration of a local emergency.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

It is the intention of this emergency declaration to achieve the Board of Supervisors priorities of A Safe Community and A Healthy Community.

Approval to Accept the Seventh and Final Update on Flooding in Various Locations in Stanislaus County and Approval to Terminate the Countywide Declaration of a Local Emergency  
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**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Existing staff has performed work necessary to address this emergency declaration.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Rick Robinson, Chief Executive Officer. Telephone (209) 525-4305.



**FEMA**

JUN 21 2011

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor of California  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

This is in response to your April 22, 2011, request for a major disaster declaration for the State of California as a result of snowstorms, heavy rain, high winds, flooding, and flows of debris and mud during the period of March 15-27, 2011. You specifically requested Public Assistance for 17 counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Based on our review of all of the information available, it has been determined that the damage to the infrastructure was a result of three separate storms, described by the National Weather Service as a series of severe winter storms, properly understood as being separate impulses of energy/systems that flowed along the jet stream, and around upper-level, low-pressure areas that occurred on March 14-16, March 17-22, and March 23-27, 2011. Additionally, the individual storms that produced high winds and/or rainfall affected different parts of the State at different times. While there were numerous storms within California during March 15-27, 2011, they were not severe or continuous, and were not beyond the combined capabilities of the State and affected local governments. Accordingly, we have determined that supplemental Federal assistance is not necessary. Therefore, I must inform you that your request for a major disaster declaration is denied.

This denial may be appealed within 30 days after the date of this letter. Any appeal pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.46, along with additional information justifying the appeal, should be submitted to the President through Nancy Ward, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX, located at:

1111 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Oakland, California 94607-4052

I regret that we could not respond favorably to your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Craig Fugate". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

W. Craig Fugate  
Administrator



**Cal E·M·A**  
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

June 8, 2011

W. Craig Fugate  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Fugate,

As you know, Governor Brown requested a major disaster declaration on April 22, 2011, as a result of a series of storms that occurred in March. The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) subsequently provided additional information to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on May 11, 2011. As you continue to review California's request, I would like to provide additional information regarding the nature and amount of State and local resources that were committed to alleviate the impacts of the single, large weather storm system that struck between March 15, 2011, and March 27, 2011.

The fierce spring storm system stressed California's mutual aid system and exhausted local resources in many areas of the state. In Yosemite National Park, nearly 100 young campers were left stranded at a snowed-in campground until crews were able to clear the snow impacted roadways. The storm resulted in closed roadways into the park and downed key transmission lines that provide electricity to El Portal and the entire park. The State Emergency Operations Center and the Business Utility Operations Center were activated and coordinated the restoration of power by mission tasking the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Transportation to expedite the deployment of workers who were airlifted into the impacted sites via helicopter to repair the damaged transmission lines.

For counties such as Mariposa, which hosts more than three million Yosemite visitors annually, the March storm event remains an operational and financial disaster beyond their ability to recover. In addition to the closure of Yosemite National Park, significant power loss occurred, which included the complete loss of power to all of Yosemite Valley and the loss of potable water in the community of Yosemite West, and downed power and phone lines throughout most of the county. Due to the county-owned water facility losing the capacity to deliver water and sewer services, Yosemite visitors and residents were evacuated. Additionally, due to the complete loss of all utilities in the communities of Yosemite West, Mariposa Pines, Jerseydale, Fish Camp, Ponderosa Basin, Midpines, El Portal, Lushmeadows, the devastation was crippling to county resources as every available snow plow, tree removal crew, firefighter, law enforcement officer, and dispatcher was mobilized to preserve life and property in those communities.

Mr. Fugate  
June 8, 2011  
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State and local resources were also deployed in California's Coastal communities to alleviate the impacts of the spring storm. For example, in Santa Cruz County, local responders constructed an 850-foot long emergency temporary bypass road to enable access to residences that had been completely blocked due to a debris flow, which rendered the residences completely inaccessible to emergency vehicles and essential services. However, the temporary bypass was constructed through private property in a riparian corridor and is insufficient to withstand the next winter season. The debris flow which necessitated the need for the emergency bypass is so significant and unstable that the county has not yet been able to begin removing the debris but has contracted with an engineering geologist to evaluate the site and to offer recommendations and guidance for removal and restoration.


State and local resources were also activated in the Inland Region of California due to this severe storm. In Sutter County, the Department of Water Resources, the California Conservation Corps, county staff, and volunteers were deployed to guard against a possible complete and catastrophic failure of a levee that protects local agricultural operations, homes, and schools. As reiterated in a recent letter I received from Sutter County's Office of Emergency Management, a complete failure of the levee has the potential to cause "billions of dollars in additional damages and the possible loss of lives and livelihood." Although all damages will not be eligible under a major disaster declaration, Sutter County, a small county with less than one hundred thousand residents, has experienced more than \$23 million in extreme storm related damages due to this disaster.

In addition to these actions, the State of California coordinated more than eighteen formal mission tasking requests, which included tasking of the California Department of Water Resources, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Utilities Emergency Association. These state departments, along with the California Conservation Corps and the California Highway Patrol, performed and provided support to response activities including flood-fighting, tree removal, roadway clearance, and evacuations. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection were mission tasked in counties such as Madera where they assisted in sandbagging efforts and also assisted road crews for three weeks in removing downed trees that blocked access on county roads.

The recovery efforts associated with the impacts of the storm event are far greater than the examples in which I have listed above. Jurisdictions such as Del Norte County have recently reported that they have completely exhausted their road department resources and in places like Monterey County, the storm event caused the Carmel River Channel alignment to be dramatically altered by the combination of high river flows and extremely high surf. And in Marin County, the conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property still exist due to progressive landslide activity.

I appreciate your attention and assistance related to California's request for a major disaster declaration as we continue to work to recover from this most recent disaster. If there is additional information that I can provide to further illustrate the magnitude of the incident please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 916.445.3964.

Sincerely,



MIKE DAYTON  
Acting Secretary