



Legislation Text

File #: 2019-1694, **Version:** 1

To: Board of Supervisors

Department or Agency Name(s): County Administrator and Emergency Management Department

Staff Name and Phone Number: Sheryl Bratton, 565-2241 Christopher Godley, 565-2052

Vote Requirement: Majority

Supervisorial District(s): All

Title:

Continue Proclamation of Local Emergency Due to the Kincade Fire in the Sonoma County Operational Area.

Recommended Actions:

Adopt Resolution Continuing and Supplementing the Proclamation of Local Emergency Issued on October 31, 2019 for another 60 Days Due to Damage Arising from the Kincade Fire in the Sonoma County Operational Area.

Executive Summary:

This item requests the Board of Supervisors approve a 60-day continuation of the October 31, 2019 Proclamation of a Local Emergency in the Sonoma County Operational Area due to the effects of the Kincade Fire. The Kincade Fire began on October 23, 2019 during an extreme fire danger exacerbated by mandatory evacuation orders, an unprecedented series of wind events with historic maximum wind speeds and corresponding de-energization of large portions of the electric grid in the Sonoma County Operational Area. As required by Government Code section 8630, the Board must review the proclamation of local emergency every 60 days and determine if there is a need for continuing the local emergency.

Discussion:

Pacific Gas & Electric ("PG&E") instituted de-energization in the Sonoma County Operational Area beginning at approximately 2:15 pm on October 23, 2019, due to extreme fire danger weather, impacting 260,000 residents. In response, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at approximately 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, to assist with managing the impacts of de-energization.

The Kincade Fire, a fast-moving wildland and urban fire erupted around 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, and has caused widespread destruction, burning 77,758 acres and destroying 374 structures, including the loss of 174 homes.

On October 24, 2019, at approximately 9:37 a.m., the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed the Existence of a Local Emergency. The Governor issued an emergency proclamation on October 25, 2019. The Health Officer issued a Proclamation of Local Health Emergency on October 30, 2019. On October 31, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 19-0473 ratifying the Director of Emergency Services' proclamation of the existence of a local emergency and requesting that the Governor of the State of California make assistance available and programmed \$2.5 million to financed response needs funded from the Board's \$2.5 million Economic Uncertainty Reserve. On November 5, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 19-0475 ratifying the Health Officer's Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency.

The County initially issued advisory evacuation notices to impacted areas of Sonoma County and, shortly thereafter, issued mandatory evacuation notices to several areas in the path of the fire. As a result, residents were unable to occupy their homes and business were forced to close. Due to the additional measures taken by PG&E in direct response to risks presented by the Kincade Fire, many businesses were unable to sell or produce products during this time and/or suffered a loss of perishable products.

The County established and supported 21 shelters for 4,850 individuals as well as pets and livestock, assisted with hospital evacuations, and successfully utilized multiple Alert & Warning systems to issue dozens of emergency warnings in both English and Spanish. Roughly 190,000 residents were in the evacuation zones countywide. The County's real-time incident status map addressed both the fire and the PG&E power shutoff hazards and was viewed over 9.7 million times.

To protect residents from hazardous debris exposure after a wildfire, the Sonoma County Health Officer issued an order advising community members to refrain from entering the burn footprint without personal protective equipment on November 1, 2019. On November 5, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted an emergency ordinance requiring authorization from the Department of Health Services, Environmental Health, prior to commencing debris removal work.

Before the fire was extinguished, the County started working closely with State partners to plan for fire debris removal. As a result of the Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency, the County, through the Debris Task Force, entered into an emergency contract with NRC to perform a Household Hazardous Waste Sweep on all parcels burned in the Kincade Fire. As of November 25, 2019, all but two parcels have been cleared of household hazardous waste.

Sonoma County Environmental Health is managing fire debris removal for the remaining debris on properties and assisting property owners with this process. Following the Household Hazardous Waste sweep, property owners can begin hiring a licensed and qualified contractor to remove debris working with their insurance to fund the work. Property owners must submit an application and a plan for the debris removal by January 31, 2020. Environmental Health staff will review the application for compliance with debris management requirements that ensure safety to workers, the public, and the environment. All debris must be removed and soil sampling completed by May 15, 2020.

As long as any fire debris remains to be cleared, it poses an imminent and extensive threat to public health and safety, the environment (including creating serious concerns for water quality and supply due to the presence of hazardous materials), public infrastructure, and undamaged property. In addition, the wildfire ravaged hillsides leaving large swaths with inadequate vegetation, creating threats of erosion and landslides.

Staff recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve a 60-day continuation of the October 31, 2019 Proclamation of a Local Emergency in the Sonoma County Operational Area due to the effects of the Kincade Fire finding that the severity and pervasiveness of the Kincade Fire disaster poses an ongoing and imminent threat to public safety and undamaged property that warrants the need to continue the local emergency as authorized by Government Code section 8630.

Prior Board Actions:

October 31, 2019: Resolution No. 19-0473, ratifying the Director of Emergency Services' proclamation of the existence of a local emergency within the Sonoma County Operational Area.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 19-20 Adopted	FY20-21 Projected	FY 21-22 Projected
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures			
Funding Sources			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources			

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payroll Classification)	Monthly Salary Range (A - I Step)	Additions (number)	Deletions (number)

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

Attachments:

Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board: