



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Approved by:

Wendy Silva
Wendy Silva, Department Director

Arnoldo Rodriguez
Arnoldo Rodriguez, City Manager

Council Meeting of: June 7, 2023

Agenda Number: B-3

SUBJECT:

Continuing Declaration Proclaiming the Existence of a Local Emergency – January 2023 Winter Storms

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution Continuing the Declaration Proclaiming the Existence of a Local Emergency – January 2023 Winter Storms in accordance with Madera Municipal Code Title III, Chapter 2

SUMMARY:

The City of Madera and State of California experienced significant storm events and related impacts beginning in December 2022. President Biden declared a major disaster for various counties in California, inclusive of Madera County, for severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides. The disaster period began December 27, 2022, and concluded January 31, 2023.

The City of Madera declared a local emergency related to storm impacts incurred during the disaster period. The requested action is to continue the emergency declaration while the City works through project completion for repairs and finalizes disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).

DISCUSSION:

California experienced severe winter storms beginning in December 2022. President Biden declared a major disaster for various counties in California, inclusive of Madera County, for severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides. The disaster period began December 27, 2022, and concluded January 31, 2023. During the disaster period, the City of Madera experienced significant impacts, including:

- Debris clearing in the storm system, public right-of-way, and park spaces

- Emergency protective measures
- Catastrophic failure of the Avenue 13 sewer trunk line at Granada Drive
- Multiple storm drain line failures and related asphalt and/or sidewalk failures
- Asphalt failure
- Degradation of equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant due to additional incoming debris
- Administrative costs associated with the above as well as with administration of the claim for damages with FEMA and CalOES

The City Manager as the Director of Emergency Services initially declared a local disaster for the City of Madera January 27, 2023. This declaration was ratified by the City Council at its meeting February 1, 2023, and has since been extended in compliance with the City's municipal code and FEMA and CalOES requirements. The contemplated action will continue the local emergency as staff works with FEMA and CalOES on projects to repair and mitigate local impacts related to the declared disaster.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The recommended action is necessary to ensure specific liability protection, emergency powers of the Emergency Services Director, and potential recovery of eligible costs, if any, from State and Federal emergency funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

Staff does not recommend consideration of other alternatives given alternatives likely would remove reimbursement to the City that may become possible as a result of this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution continuing the Declaration of a Local Emergency for January 2023 winter storms

RESOLUTION NO. 23-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA,
CALIFORNIA, CONTINUING THE DECLARATION PROCLAIMING THE
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY – JANUARY 2023 WINTER STORMS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MADERA MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE III, CHAPTER 2**

WHEREAS, the City of Madera has already been adversely impacted by the effects of other local emergencies such as the recent unexpected closure of Madera Community Hospital and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), on January 4, 2023 the Governor of the State of California issued a “Proclamation of a State of Emergency” (“Governor’s Proclamation”) relating to severe winter storms and a series of atmospheric river systems that struck California, bringing high winds, substantial precipitation, and river, stream and urban flooding. The Governor’s Proclamation declared that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these storms; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services has found that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property continue to exist within the City of Madera, caused by a series of extreme winter weather events that started on or about December 27, 2022; and

WHEREAS, these extreme winter storm events also referred to as “Atmospheric Rivers” produced large rainfall totals and wind, leading to localized flooding and storm surges within the City’s critical infrastructure systems; and

WHEREAS, these extreme winter storm events have and may continue to cause damage to the City of Madera and other public and private facilities, including but not limited to roads, critical infrastructure, transportation corridors, and buildings, the extent of which has not been completely compiled; and

WHEREAS, strict compliance with certain Madera Municipal Code (“MMC”) and other City regulations would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of the severe winter storms, which issue cannot be timely addressed absent a declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of local resources, ability to coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, use mutual aid, and allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments will be critical to successfully responding to the severe winter storms; and

WHEREAS, local resources have been and will continue to be deployed by the City of Madera to mitigate and recover from these extreme weather events, thereby depleting strained public safety resources such as Law Enforcement, Public Works, and Engineering services; and

WHEREAS, it has now been found that local resources will be unable to cope with the catastrophic effects of this emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-2.04 of the Madera Municipal Code designates the City Manager as the

Director of Emergency Services for the City of Madera; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Sections 8558 and 8630, et seq., and Section 3-2.04(A) of the Madera Municipal Code authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence of a local emergency within the City of Madera when the City Council is not in session and the City of Madera is affected or likely to be affected by the existence or threatened existence of conditions of emergency or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the City of Madera; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2023, the City Council was not in session, and the City's Director of Emergency Services declared a local emergency thereby activating the Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 8630 and MMC Section 3-2.04(A), a local emergency declared by the Director of Emergency Services shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven (7) days unless it has been ratified by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of City residents, businesses, visitors and staff are of utmost importance to the City and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community. The mobilization of local resources, ability to coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, use mutual aid, and allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments will be critical to successfully responding to the present storm-related state of emergency. The City may require additional assistance in the future, and proclamation of local emergency allows additional resources to flow to the City in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services requests that the City Council continue the declaration of a state of local emergency for the City of Madera as impacts from the storm events are evaluated, repaired, and or mitigated; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of all facts reasonably available for review and all items, the City Council of the City of Madera now desires to continue the proclamation and reaffirm the existence of a state of emergency throughout the City to make additional resources available to address the disaster impacts of the above-described 2023 winter storms, ratify the proclamation of the Director of Emergency Services made on January 27, 2023, and affirm the existence of a state of local emergency for the City of Madera as of the date of January 4, 2023 when Governor Newsom declared the existence of a state of emergency for the State of California.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Madera as follows:

1. Recitals. The above recitals true and correct and incorporated herein as findings by the City Council.
2. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The actual existence of conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the City of Madera, caused by the effects of the above-described 2023 winter storms. The City Council, based upon the foregoing, now does proclaim, declare and affirm the continuing existence of a local emergency throughout the City.
3. Ratification. The aforementioned conditions of extreme peril warranted and necessitated the extension of the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency throughout the City of Madera

by the City's Director of Emergency Services on January 27, 2023. The City Council of the City of Madera does hereby ratify and affirm the need to continue the proclamation of a local emergency throughout the City of Madera.

4. **Effective Date of Local Emergency.** The City Council of the City of Madera does hereby extend and reaffirm the existence of a state of local emergency for the City of Madera as of the date of January 4, 2023, when the Governor of the State of California originally declared the existence of a state of emergency for the State of California, for the reasons articulated in the Governor's Proclamation of the existence of a state of emergency for the State of California on January 4, 2023, the reasons articulated herein, and for the reasons in the proclamation of a local emergency throughout the City of Madera by the City's Director of Emergency Services proclaimed on January 27, 2023.

5. **Authority.** During the existence of said local emergency, the powers, authority, functions and duties of the Director of Emergency Services and the City's emergency services organizations shall be those prescribed by state law, City ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the City in order to mitigate the effects of said local emergency. In this regard, the Council desires to make clear the powers, functions, and duties include:

a. As necessary for the public health, life, and property, entering into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services needed to assist in preparing for, containing, responding to, mitigating the effects of, and recovering from the severe weather conditions. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, as well as any City procurement or related policy, are suspended to the extent reasonably necessary to address the effects of the severe weather conditions.

b. The Emergency Services Director is expressly authorized to assist with any lawful order, including the enforcement of an order issued by Governor's Proclamation.

c. The designation and authorization of Arnolando Rodriguez, City Manager and Emergency Services Director, or his designee, as the Local Hazard Mitigation Coordinator of the City of Madera is reaffirmed, including for the purposes of i) assessing damage within the City of Madera and consulting with federal/state survey teams about hazard mitigation actions; and ii) authorized representative for individual assistance of the City of Madera for purposes of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available state and federal assistance

6. **Duration.** Per Government Code Section 8630, this ratification of the proclamation of local emergency shall expire in sixty (60) days unless extended by the City Council. At the direction of the Emergency Services Director, City Staff are directed to return this item for Council review of the need for continuing the local emergency prior to the expiration of the sixty (60) days period.

7. **Notice to Agencies.** In accordance to the California Disaster Assistance Act and the Stafford Act, the Emergency Services Director is authorized to send a copy of this ratification of a proclamation of local emergency be forwarded to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State law; 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. A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Madera County Office of Emergency Services.

8. Severability. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Resolution or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Resolution.

9. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and adoption. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original Resolutions.

10. Publication. This Resolution and its contents will be published and promulgated in as widespread a manner as is reasonably feasible under the conditions prevailing during this local emergency.
