



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Whitney McDonald, City Manager

BY: Aleah Bergam, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution Declaring a Continued Local Emergency Related to the Ongoing Storm Events

DATE: March 28, 2023

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

Adoption of the Resolution will continue the two declared and ratified local emergencies related to the ongoing storm events, beginning in December 2022, and continuing through the present.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

There are no direct fiscal impacts related to the proposed action; however, adoption of the Resolution will facilitate the ability for the City to request resources including financial support and reimbursement from the State Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for costs incurred in preparation and/or response to the storm events.

RECOMMENDATION:

1) Adopt a Resolution declaring a continued local emergency related to the ongoing storm events, beginning in December 2022 and continuing through the present. 2) Make findings that adopting the Resolution continuing a local emergency is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because the continued declaration in itself has no potential to result in either a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (b)(2)-(3), 15378.)

BACKGROUND:

As the City Council is aware, in accordance with Section 8.12.060 of the Arroyo Grande Municipal Code, the City Manager, in her capacity as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed a local emergency on January 18, 2023, regarding the severe January 2023 winter storms. The City Council ratified the emergency proclamation at its regular meeting on January 24, 2023.

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Multiple additional atmospheric river systems struck the Central Coast beginning on March 9, 2023, and the City Manager, again in her capacity as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed a local emergency on March 11, 2023 to account for the impacts and potential damage incurred subsequent to the declaration of the first local emergency. The City Council ratified the emergency proclamation at its regular meeting on March 14, 2023.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

Arroyo Grande Municipal Code Section 8.12.065(C) provides that the City Council is to “Review the need for a continuing emergency declaration at regularly scheduled meetings at least every twenty-one (21) days until the emergency is terminated.” Accordingly, to date, the City Council has adopted the appropriate Resolutions declaring a continued local emergency related to both the January 2023 storm events and the subsequent storm events within the required 21-day time period. Moving forward, provided there is adoption of this Resolution, consistent with the prior ratification of the emergency proclamations at the City Council’s January 24, 2023 and March 14, 2023 regular meetings, respectively, the City will remain in compliance with its municipal Code.

This item is being presented to the City Council to satisfy the requirements of Section 8.12.065(C). Given the current [state of emergency](#) proclaimed by the Governor, and the [Presidential Major Disaster Declaration](#) declared on January 14, 2023 and the [Presidential Emergency Declaration](#) declared on March 10, 2023, it is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution declaring the need to continue the emergency declarations made to date in response to the storm events beginning December 27, 2022. The County of San Luis Obispo issued a similar [emergency declaration](#), which remains in effect. Federal, State and County emergency declarations associated with the January 2023 storm events, and resulting damage, continue to remain in effect.

Since the initial emergency declarations, multiple additional atmospheric river systems continue to strike the Central Coast beginning on March 9, 2023. On March 10, 2023, the Emergency Services Director for the County of San Luis Obispo issued a Proclamation of a Local Emergency related to severe winter storms and a series of atmospheric rivers systems that struck California beginning on December 27, 2022, and have been ongoing since that date. On March 1, 2023, Governor Newsom issued an [emergency proclamation](#) related to the severe winter storms impacting San Luis Obispo and other counties throughout the State.

City staff continue to dedicate time towards responding to numerous storm recovery efforts and continue to require support from County, State, and Federal emergency response resources to support these efforts.

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ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Adopt the Resolution declaring a continued local emergency related to the ongoing storm events, beginning in December 2022 and continuing through the present; or
2. Provide other direction to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

Adoption of the Resolution will satisfy the requirement of the Arroyo Grande Municipal Code regarding the periodic review of the declared local emergency related to the severe winter storms and support the City's efforts to obtain assistance from County, State, and federal emergency response resources to recover from the disaster.

DISADVANTAGES:

No disadvantages have been identified to adopting the Resolution.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

No environmental review is required for this item. Adopting the Resolution continuing a local emergency is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because that declaration in itself has no potential to result in either a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (b)(2)-(3), 15378.)

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution