

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: SUE GALLAGHER, CITY ATTORNEY  
PAUL LOWENTHAL, ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL  
SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
DUE TO THE 2020 GLASS FIRE

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the City Attorney's Office that the Council, by resolution, terminate the Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency, first proclaimed on September 27, 2020 and extended since that time relating to the 2020 Glass Fire.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff recommends that Council, by resolution, terminate the City's Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the 2020 Glass Fire as the conditions that gave rise to the local emergency no longer exist.

BACKGROUND

In the evening hours of September 27, 2020, the Shady Fire, a spot fire believed to have been triggered by embers from the larger Glass Fire burning in Napa County, began a rapid descent into Sonoma County from northeast of Santa Rosa near the Napa and Sonoma County line, entering into the city limits of the City of Santa Rosa within just a few hours, destroying numerous homes in eastern Santa Rosa, threatening hundreds of additional homes and business, and requiring the evacuation of tens of thousands of residents and visitors.

Ultimately, the Glass Fire raged for more than three weeks, burned 67,494 acres and, in Sonoma County alone, destroyed 235 single-family residences and damaged or destroyed 368 more structures, and for days posed an imminent threat to the health and safety of City residents and visitors and to the security of homes and business in the community.

As the threat of the fire became clear, the City's Director of Emergency Services proclaimed the existence of a local emergency, exercising his authority under City Code

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Section 2-24.050. The City Council ratified the proclamation of local emergency on September 29, 2020, enabling the City to continue to respond to the fire and its aftermath with critical expanded emergency powers.

Since that time, the Council has regularly extended the proclamation as required and allowed by law.

## PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

### **2020 Glass Fire**

On September 29, 2020, by Resolution RES-2020-157, Council ratified the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services, dated September 27, 2020.

Extensions of the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency were adopted on November 10, 2020 (RES-2020-185), January 5, 2021 (RES-2021-012), March 2, 2021 (RES-2021-035), April 27, 2021 (RES-2021-069), June 22, 2021 (RES-2021-103), and August 17, 2021 (RES-2021-143).

## ANALYSIS

After a year of dedicated City and community efforts, the initial impacts of the Glass Fire have now been largely resolved. Although City residents are still engaged in the recovery and rebuilding process, staff finds that the extraordinary powers and procedures available under the emergency proclamations are no longer necessary. Staff therefore recommends that the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency due to the Glass Fire be terminated.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

## BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

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NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Resolution RES-2020-157 (2020 Glass Fire)
- Resolution

CONTACT

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