

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SUE GALLAGHER, CITY ATTORNEY
SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
DUE TO THE 2017 TUBBS FIRE

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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 October 9, 2017 and extended since that time, relating to the 2017 wildfires.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff recommends that Council, by resolution, terminate the City's Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the 2017 wildfires. Although recovery and response efforts are still on-going, the City has reached a point in its work where the extraordinary powers and procedures available under the emergency proclamations are no longer necessary.

BACKGROUND

Beginning in the early hours of October 9, 2017, and for many days following, the City of Santa Rosa suffered devastating wildfires and significant loss of life and property.

On October 9, 2017, at 3:17 a.m., the City Manager, in his capacity as Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed the existence of local emergency in the City of Santa Rosa.

On October 13, 2017, the Council adopted Resolution No. RES-2017-201 ratifying the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services on October 9, 2017.

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

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PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On October 13, 2017, by Resolution RES-2017-201, Council ratified the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency issued by the Director of Emergency Services dated October 9, 2017.

Extensions of the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency were adopted on November 30, 2017 (RES-2017-226), December 12, 2017 (RES-2017-247), January 9, 2018 (RES-2018-008), February 6, 2018 (RES-2018-018), March 6, 2018 (RES-2018-037), April 3, 2018 (RES-2018-050), May 1, 2018 (RES-2018-062), May 22, 2018 (RES-2018-075), June 19, 2018 (RES-2018-090), July 10, 2018 (RES-2018-115), August 7, 2018 (RES-2018-135), September 4, 2018 (RES-2018-156), October 2, 2018 (RES-2018-172), October 30, 2018 (RES-2018-195), November 27, 2018 (RES-2018-205), December 18, 2018 (RES-2018-226), January 15, 2019 (RES-2019-006), February 12, 2019 (RES-2019-014), March 12, 2019 (RES-2019-025), April 2, 2019 (RES-2019-035), May 28, 2019 (RES-2019-056), July 23, 2019 (RES-2019-116), September 10, 2019 (RES-2019-139), November 5, 2019 (RES-2019-163), December 17, 2019 (RES-2019-187), February 11, 2020 (RES-2020-017), April 7, 2020 (RES-2020-054), and June 2, 2020 (RES-2020-084).

ANALYSIS

At the time, the 2017 wildfires were the most devastating in the history of the State of California. The fires burned more than 36,000 acres, claimed 22 lives, and destroyed more than 5643 structures, including more than 3,000 residences within the City of Santa Rosa alone. The City's public facilities and infrastructure suffered extensive damage. Thousands of households were displaced.

The wildfires dramatically exacerbated the City's pre-existing housing shortage, devastating several large neighborhoods and three mobilehome parks. Thousands of residents were left to find alternative housing.

The wildfires left a large debris field in their wake, raising significant environmental, public health and safety concerns due to the widespread presence of hazardous materials and the enormous scope of the incident. The City's water system suffered contamination, stormwater pipes melted and subsequent storms revealed even further damage to roads, sidewalks, parks and other facilities.

Now, almost three years later, the community's recovery and rebuilding is well underway. Fire debris is largely removed, water contamination issues have been long resolved, replacement and restoration of public infrastructure has begun, many businesses have rebuilt, and perhaps most significantly for city residents, 1287 homes have been rebuilt, 913 homes are under construction, and 165 homes are in the permitting pipeline. Eighty-three percent of the residential units lost in the fire are in the rebuilding process and forty-five percent of the homes lost have been fully rebuilt.

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While the recovery and building process is not complete, staff believes that the City has now reached a point in its work where the extraordinary powers and procedures available under the emergency proclamations are no longer necessary.

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.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Resolution RES-2017-201 (2017 Wildfire)
- Resolution – 2017 Wildfire

CONTACT

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