



TERMINATION OF PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE 2020 GLASS FIRE

City Council Meeting
November 16, 2021

Sue Gallagher, City Attorney
Paul Lowenthal, Assistant Fire Marshal

Background

- The Shady Fire, a spot fire likely triggered by embers from the larger Glass Fire, was ignited on September 27, 2020
- The fire, merged with the larger Glass Fire, entered into the city limits of Santa Rosa destroying numerous homes and threatened hundreds of additional homes and business, 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

Background

- 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 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.

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.

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.

QUESTIONS?