



Information and General Services Department

Office of Emergency Services

10014 N. Bloomfield Road
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: 530-470-2635
Fax: 530-265-7087

*Information Systems
Geographic Information Systems
Facilities Management*

*Emergency Services
Central Services
Cable Television*

*Purchasing
Airport
Library*

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 12, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Steve Monaghan – IGS-Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution ratifying a local emergency proclamation by the Nevada County Director of Emergency Services and declaring a further emergency due to recurrent public safety power shut offs in response to extreme weather conditions resulting in unprecedented wind events and high fire danger in Nevada County; and requesting that the Governor continue to maintain a State of Emergency for the County of Nevada (4/5 Affirmative Vote)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: The potential fiscal impact is unknown at this time.

BACKGROUND: On October 27, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom Proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to extremely dangerous fire weather resulting in the de-energization of power lines known as a “Public Safety Power Shutoff” (“PSPS”). Due to extreme weather conditions resulting in unprecedented wind events and recurrent high fire danger, on or about October 9, 2019, PG&E began implementing a series of Public Safety Power Shutoffs, including the most recent PSPS initiated on October 29, 2019, affecting multiple counties in Northern California, including most of Western Nevada County and portions of the greater Truckee area. The emergency is expected to remain in place for a period of several days to several weeks due to ongoing severe fire danger and the likelihood of subsequent PSPS events. The effects of said emergency are or are likely to be beyond the control, capacity, and resources of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of Nevada County and due to the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency as of October 29, 2019, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The series of Public Safety Power Shutoffs have left thousands of customers throughout Western Nevada County without power and critical infrastructure for multiple days, including County households, small businesses, public facilities, medical care facilities, and schools, and given the size of the PSPS it may take several days to fully restore power to Nevada County. The loss of power for an extended period of time places residents at risk, especially those who are medically vulnerable and/or elderly and therefore constitutes a public health and safety emergency. Additionally, many small businesses and their employees have and will continue to experience significant economic losses, leaving them in need of additional support.

Pursuant to this local emergency, it is requested that the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Nevada be designated as the authorized representative of the County of Nevada for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available State and Federal assistance. Further, it is requested that the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services, or his designee, and the emergency organization of the County, be those prescribed by state law, local ordinance and resolutions of this County approved by the Board of Supervisors, as approved by the Board of Supervisors. Further, it is requested that the Director of Emergency Services or his designee immediately forward a certified copy of this resolution proclaiming a local emergency to the Governor of California with requests that the Governor continue to maintain a State of Emergency for the County of Nevada, that the State of California waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts and make available recovery assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act, and that the State expedite access to federal resources and any other appropriate federal relief programs.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Steve Monaghan