



Information and General Services Department

Office of Emergency Services

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: March 7, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution Proclaiming a Local Emergency in Nevada County due to the late February 2023 Winter Storms.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: The initial response actions will be from the General Fund and may, depending on scale, be supplemented by State/Federal Government monies.

BACKGROUND:

On February 24, 2023, in the early morning continuing through February 28, Nevada County was hit with an intense series of winter snowstorm systems (“Snowstorm”) bringing excessive amounts of snow to areas that typically receive little to no snow. The Snowstorm caused over 20,000 Nevada County residents to lose PG&E utility power service with PG&E saying it could take multiple days for restoration. Local telecommunications were severely hampered as well reducing 911 services. As a result of the Snowstorm numerous trees have been reported down across county roads, with many trees having attached utility power lines to them. There have been numerous calls for service from local residents who have had trees land on their homes, are running out of heating gas, do not have electricity, or do not have firewood to heat their homes, resulting in the need for the County to open warming shelters.

On February 24, 2023, at approximately 12:00 pm, Nevada County commenced emergency services opening its emergency operations center to respond to the community-wide emergency service needs. The conditions created by the Snowstorm are likely beyond the immediate capabilities of local resources, services, personnel, equipment, and facilities.

On March 1st, 2023 Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency due to the Snowstorm impacting communities throughout the State of California. On March 1, 2023 the Nevada County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency for the County of Nevada due to the late February winter storms.

The emergency proclamation issued by the County of Nevada Emergency Services on March 1 is before this Board for confirmation and ratification.

This Local Emergency Proclamation will enable the County of Nevada to more

effectively respond to the Snowstorm, seek and utilize mutual aid, obtain state and federal funds (if available), and ensure that the County's resources and economy have all the necessary tools at their disposal to endure this ongoing challenge.

Further, pursuant to the Local Emergency proclamation, 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, and 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.

If approved these recommended actions will provide the County of Nevada additional powers to coordinate local efforts and identify resources that may be necessary to fully address the Snowstorm impacts and its effects locally.

If approved a certified copy of this Resolution will be immediately forwarded to the Governor of California.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services