

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Supervisor Heidi Hall, District I

Chair Ed Scofield, District II

Supervisor Lisa Swarthout, District III

Supervisor Susan Hoek, District IV

Vice-Chair Hardy Bullock, District V

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board

Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

Katharine L. Elliott, County Counsel



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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SUMMARY MINUTES

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, March 7, 2023	11:00 AM	Board Chambers, First Floor Eric Rood Administrative Center 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200 Nevada City, California

SPECIAL MEETING: 11:00 AM

Rollcall. The following Supervisors present:

Heidi Hall, 1st District

Ed Scofield, 2nd District

Lisa Swarthout, 3rd District

Susan Hoek, 4th District

Hardy Bullock, 5th District

STANDING ORDERS:

Chair Scofield called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was held.

No corrections and/or deletions to agenda were noted.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MATTER:

1. [SR 23-0563](#) Resolution proclaiming a Local Emergency in Nevada County due to the late February 2023 winter storms
Adopted.
Enactment No: RES 23-096

ACTION TAKEN: Chair Scofield introduced the agenda item, and Craig Griesbach, Director of the Office of Emergency Services (OES), and Paul Cummings, OES Program Manager, reported on the extreme snowstorm and impacts to the community and local agencies.

Director Griesbach reported that starting on the morning of February 24, 2023 the County was hit with a series of winter snowstorms, causing over 30% of County residents to lose power, downing trees, and making private and public roadways hazardous or nearly impassible. On March 1, 2023, Nevada County OES declared a Local Emergency and the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency, due to the winter storms and the anticipated impacts.

Director Griesbach reported on the efforts of the OES Team and County departments to address road maintenance, expedite emergency response, and provide snow and downed tree removal. Director Griesbach reported that the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated on February 24, 2023. Assistance throughout the emergency has been provided by Nevada County departments and the County's partners, including Public Works, Sheriff's office, CAL FIRE, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E), AT&T, Western Propane Gas Association, local Fire Districts, CalOES, Red Cross, local contractors, both Cities and Town staff, as well as local Hospital and School Districts. Over 130 County staff members have worked over 5,000 hours in response to the event; County road crews have worked 24/7; six private contractors have been hired to work on snow and downed tree removal; and CAL FIRE and National Guard crews have provided snow and hazardous tree removal. The County has opened a 24/7 warming shelter, which has served between 30-60 residents per day. The Sheriff's office and Search and Rescue Team have responded to numerous calls, including rescues and welfare checks. Neighbors are helping their neighbors, sharing supplies, and clearing driveways and sidewalks. Looking forward, the priority will focus on continued efforts towards clearing and improving access along County road systems, supporting the County's emergency responders, preparing for recovery, and addressing community needs.

Director Griesbach concluded the presentation and requested the Board adopt the Resolution ratifying the proclamation of the Local Emergency in Nevada County due to the late February 2023 winter storms.

Board questioning and discussion ensued regarding the need for ongoing road clearing; areas of the County that are still waiting for assistance from PG&E; and a coordinated response from PG&E regarding their tree trimming and line maintenance efforts. Staff was urged to message the community about the correct use of 211 and 911; the importance of staying away from downed power lines; the importance of removing snow loads off of roofs; propane issues; how and where to access firewood and food; and how to request welfare checks.

OES Program Manager Cummings reported on the issues with propane deliveries, noting that there is a current propane shortage, which started prior to the current storm systems. Director Griesbach reported that property owners should plow their driveways and provide a cleared access to propane tanks in order to expedite propane delivery.

Chair Scofield thanked the OES Team and the Public Works Team, and requested the public be patient with first responders, as all involved are really trying to do their very best.

Rolf Kleinhans, Nevada County Assessor, reported on the application process that is available to property owners to reduce property taxes when there is structural damage to property resulting from extreme weather damage. Assessor Kleinhans explained that after their structure is repaired, the assessment will return to the previous assessed amount. Unless the structures has been improved, the Assessor's office will not raise the assessment.

Chair Scofield provided an opportunity for public comment and comments were received.

MOTION: Motion made by Supervisor Hall and seconded by Supervisor Hoek to adopt Resolution 23-096, proclaiming a Local Emergency in Nevada County due to the late February winter storm. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION TAKEN: Chair Scofield adjourned the meeting at 11:47 am.

Signature and Attestation

Edward C. Scofield, Chair

ATTEST:

By:

Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board