

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: January 6, 2023

From: City Manager Department

Subject: Resolution Ratifying a Proclamation of Local Emergency

Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution ratifying a Proclamation of Local Emergency by the Director of Emergency Services due to a significant weather event commencing on January 3, 2023.

Background: The California Emergency Services Act defines a local emergency as the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a city, caused by conditions beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of a city.

Capitola Municipal Code Section 8.08.060 empowers the Director of Emergency Services (City Manager) for Capitola to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the City is affected or likely to be affected by the existence of disaster or extreme peril which is, or is likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of this City, requiring the combined forces of other political subdivisions to control.

On December 30 and 31, 2022, Santa Cruz County (including the City of Capitola) experienced a major rain event. As a result, flooding of the Soquel Creek caused damage to public and private property and various other roads and infrastructure in the City was damaged. Current estimates of damage relating to this weather event are not yet known.

On January 4, 2023, the City Manager/Director of Emergency Services signed a Proclamation of Local Emergency and issued evacuation orders for residents within Capitola Village, Riverview Drive, and Riverview Avenue.

On the morning of January 5, 2023 a major winter swell arrived and damaged numerous homes, businesses and the Capitola Wharf as well as other public infrastructure.

Discussion: Pursuant to Government Code Section 8630, a local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist for a period of up to seven days, and thereafter by ratification and extension by the City Council, until the local emergency is terminated by the City Council.

The proposed resolution ratifies the proclamation of local emergency and deems it to continue to exist until terminated by the City Council.

Fiscal Impact: Staff has not yet determined the extent of the damage caused by the flood, or the expected cost of repairs. The City expects to exercise all available options to recover funds from applicable funding sources. Declaring a local emergency will best position the City to seek reimbursement from State and federal funds.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. January 4, 2023 Emergency Proclamation

Report Prepared By: Report Prepared By: Julia Moss, City Clerk

Reviewed By: Julia Moss, City Clerk; Samantha Zutler, City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager