



**STAFF REPORT**  
**8/23/2023**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Gabriel Martin, City Manager  
Carlos Campos, City Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2023-60 Ratifying and Declaring a Local Emergency Related to Hurricane/Tropical Storm Hilary

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council of the City of Coachella adopt the following:

Resolution No. 2023-60 Ratifying and Declaring a Local Emergency Related to Hurricane/Tropical Storm Hilary

**BACKGROUND:**

Last week, the U.S. National Hurricane Center predicted that a tropical depression off the coast of Mexico would bring “catastrophic” flooding for the Baja peninsula and for the southwestern United States. The tropical depression, since named “Hurricane/Tropical Storm Hilary” crossed the border into the United States on Sunday, August 20, 2023. Meteorologists predicted the storm would bring heavy rainfall to the southwestern United States, resulting in 3 to 6 inches in places, with isolated amounts of up to 10 inches in portions of southern California.

As predicted, when Hurricane/Tropical Storm Hilary approached the Coachella Valley, the area was impacted by localized flash flooding, high winds and torrential rain that caused damage to roads and infrastructure. On August 19, 2023, Governor Newsom proclaimed the existence of a state-wide emergency due to the expected impacts from Hurricane Hilary and, among other acts, ordered the California Office of Emergency Services to provide assistance to local governments in Riverside County pursuant to the California Disaster Assistance Act (California Government Code, Section 8680 et. seq.) (“State Proclamation”).

On August 21, 2023, the City of Coachella Director of Emergency Services (City Manager) determined that circumstances of extreme peril to public safety were severe in Coachella. As a result, the Director adopted a proclamation declaring a local emergency related to the impacts created by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Hilary on August 21, 2023

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

Coachella Municipal Code section 2.56.60 empowers the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when there is an actual or threatened existence or conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City and the City Council is not in session. Once issued, that declaration must be ratified and extended within seven (7) days of its issuance.

If ratified and extended, California Government Code section 8630(c) requires that the City Council review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every 60 days until the City Council terminates the local emergency.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council may decide to allow the emergency declaration to expire on August 28, 2023 without extending it.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact concerning the adoption of a resolution ratifying a local emergency.

**ATTACHMENT**

1. Resolution
2. Proclamation Issued by Director of Emergency Services on August 21, 2023