

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
2023 FEBRUARY WINTER STORMS
IN FRESNO COUNTY

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL
EMERGENCY DUE TO FEBRUARY
WINTER STORMS

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8630, et. seq.) establishes procedures for proclaiming emergencies and for responding promptly to the needs that arise during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, section 2.44.060.A. of the Fresno County Code and Section 8630 of the Government Code empower the Emergency Services Director or his designee, or the Board of Supervisors if in session, to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County is affected by or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and,

WHEREAS, the County Administrative Officer, acting in his capacity as the Emergency Services Director of the County of Fresno, does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to public safety and public health have arisen within Fresno County as a result of extreme storm events that began on February 23, 2023 caused overwhelming weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, record amounts of snow and rain have caused damages to Fresno County roads and infrastructure and have forced residents to shelter-in-place in their homes for long periods of times, sometimes requiring evacuation by the Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, shelters have been opened in the City of Reedley, the community of Prather, and the city of Sanger, where the nearby communities are compromised due to the long-term power outages were affecting 1,570 homes in Fresno County; and

WHEREAS, ingress and egress for residents in eastern Fresno County are compromised due to closed highways and County roads as a result of heavy snow, flooding, and damaged roads and drainage systems; and

1 WHEREAS, forecasted atmospheric river systems continue to threaten additional
2 infrastructure; and

3 WHEREAS, uncontrolled snow-melt and run-off from historic snow amounts will overwhelm
4 water drainage systems and established watersheds, which will lead to flash flooding, rockfall,
5 mudslides, debris flows, and damages to roadways; and

6 WHEREAS, local resources are inadequate to cope with the effects of said emergency and
7 the combined forces of other political subdivisions of the State are required to assist the County to
8 combat the effects of said emergency; and

9 WHEREAS, on March 1, 2023, the Governor of California proclaimed a State of Emergency
10 to exist throughout California due to severe winter storms related to damaging winds and historic
11 precipitation, including snowfall in areas unaccustomed to snow; and

12 WHEREAS, the County of Fresno Emergency Services Director proclaimed a local
13 emergency on March 2, 2023; and

14 WHEREAS, on March 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno ratified
15 the proclamation by the Emergency Services Director and adopted a resolution proclaiming the
16 local emergency status; and

17 WHEREAS, on April 14, 2023, the County of Fresno was added to the list of Counties
18 included in the Presidential Emergency Declaration; and

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that a Local
20 Emergency exists throughout Fresno County and that said Local Emergency shall be deemed to
21 continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors; and

22 IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local
23 emergency, the powers, functions, and duties for the emergency organization of this County shall
24 be those prescribed by state law, ordinances and resolutions of this County, and by the Fresno
25 County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, as approved by the Board of
26 Supervisors; and

27 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the State
28 Director of the Office of Emergency Services.

1 **THE FOREGOING**, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of
2 Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 20th day of May, 2025, to-wit:

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5 AYES:

6 NOES:

7 ABSENT:

8 ABSTAINED:

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ATTEST:

Bernice E. Seidel

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

County of Fresno, State of California

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By: _____

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Deputy

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Ernest Buddy Mendes, Chairman of the
Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno