

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**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 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025, to-wit:

3

4

5 AYES:

6 NOES:

7 ABSENT:

8 ABSTAINED:

9

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

10

11 **ATTEST:**

Bernice E. Seidel  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Fresno, State of California

12

13 By: \_\_\_\_\_

14

Deputy

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28