

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

827A



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
February 25, 2016

SUBJECT: State Legislation

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:
Approve support of legislation to establish a time period for the Governor to act on county proclamations that request the proclamation of a state of emergency and/or disaster funding assistance.

BACKGROUND:
Summary

On September 19, 2014, Governor Brown issued Executive Order (EO) B-26-14, authorizing the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) funding, as deemed appropriate, for costs incurred by local governments as a result of a disaster event. However the executive order does not direct the Governor to act within a specified length of time. Riverside County is asking for legislation to require the Governor to act within 60 days of the declaration.

Departmental Concurrence

Kim Saruwatari

Kimberly Saruwatari
Director of Emergency Management

Brian Nestande

Brian Nestande
Deputy County Executive Office

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Budget Adjustment:

For Fiscal Year:

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE
BY: *George A. Johnson*
George A. Johnson

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- A-30
- Positions Added
- 4/5
- Change Order
- Vote

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: | Agenda Number:

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Summary (continued)

In the month of August 2015 severe weather phenomena lead to Riverside County calling for a state of emergency in the unincorporated community of Thermal.

On August 12, 2015, the Director of Emergency Services (County Executive Officer Jay Orr) signed a Proclamation of Local Emergency for the Thermal incident that included a request for the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA). Per protocol, the signed Proclamation and Initial Damage Assessment was sent to the Southern Region Administrator for Cal OES.

This was further supplemented by the ratification of the Proclamation of Local Emergency by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors on August 18, 2015.

Preliminary damage assessments of the area were conducted by Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and other agencies. The impacted area was approximately 14.5 square miles. Initial estimates from IID were approximately \$13 million in damages to the power poles, lines and other infrastructure.

A timeline of events is as follows:

- August 20, 2015: Updated preliminary damage assessments were received from IID and totaled \$18 million.
- September, 2015 through January, 2016: Multiple calls were made to Cal OES Southern Region to inquire about the status of our request for a State of Emergency and CDAA, but no disposition on our request was available.
- On January 12, 2016: Riverside County Emergency Management Department received a call from Cal OES Southern Region Administrator informing us that the Governor denied Riverside County's request for a State of Emergency and CDAA.
- On February 24, 2016 the Southern Region forwarded via email an official letter denying our request.

The amount of time that a response took to be received for emergency funds or even the status of the application can be seen as a failure within the bureaucratic system which is meant to protect the people of the United States and the citizens of California. In the case of a much more urgent matter a response of this nature could put the lives of countless people at risk. Furthermore response times of this nature make it especially difficult for affected communities as they are thrown into a state of flux not knowing whether they will receive funding or not and thus causing great economic strain and delays in the rehabilitation of affected communities.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

A statutory requirement for the Governor to act within 60 days after a County government has requested a proclamation of a State of Emergency could make the difference in the reconstruction and wellbeing of the communities and its residents.

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Additional Fiscal Information

N/A

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

N/A