

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



ITEM: 3.12
(ID # 22996)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, September 12, 2023

FROM : EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT:

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT: Ratify Proclamation of Local
Emergency due to the Lawson Landfill Incident. District 4. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-253 to ratify the proclamation of Local Emergency as
declared by the Director of Emergency Services.

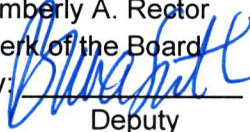
ACTION:


Ramon A. Leon, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MGMT DEPT 9/6/2023

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Washington and duly carried by
unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Perez, Washington, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: September 12, 2023
xc: EMD

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	23/24

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The County of Riverside experienced unprecedented rainfall due to the remnants from Hurricane Hilary causing widespread flooding of the Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, and North Shore areas.

On September 1, the National Weather Service Phoenix, AZ, issued a series of Flash Flood Advisories, Warnings and Watches advising that conditions of damage and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property existed within the eastern portion of Riverside County. The significant flooding in the Eastern portion of Riverside County substantially impacted the County's unincorporated areas of Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, and portions of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians' Reservation, overwhelming requests for resources, including, but not limited to, swift water rescue teams, mass care and shelter resources, transportation crews, and flood control on the affected communities.

The area known as the Lawson Landfill received an estimated 2.86" of rainfall, which caused a failure of the protective berm surrounding the landfill, and a failure of the landfill's entombment covering, creating conditions of dangerous contaminated flows potentially containing dioxins and furans, necessitating the issuance of evacuation warnings to residents of the nearby local mobile home parks below the landfill area.

Due to the potential severity of the situation and to ensure a seamless response to the impacts of the abandoned landfill, multi-jurisdictional coordination between the County of Riverside, Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribal Government, State of California, Federal Government and Private/Non-Profits must take place, to lessen the impacts to the whole community.

It is requested that the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution No. 2023-253 to ratify the Proclamation of Local Emergency as declared by the Director of Emergency Services.

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

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Riverside County Operational Area has requested assistance from the State of California to meet current and potential additional needs.


Rebecca S Cortez, Principal Management Analyst 9/6/2023


Kelly Moran, Deputy County Counsel 9/6/2023

2
3 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-253

4
5 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
6 THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE RATIFYING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO
7 THE LAWSON LANDFILL INCIDENT
8

9 WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 533.7 of the County of Riverside empowers the Director of
10 Emergency Services to proclaim the existence of a "Local Emergency" when the Board of Supervisors is
11 not in session and,

12 WHEREAS, the County of Riverside experienced unprecedented rainfall due to the remnants from
13 Hurricane Hilary causing widespread flooding of the Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, and North Shore areas.

14 WHEREAS, the significant flooding in the Eastern portion of Riverside County substantially
15 impacted the county's unincorporated areas of Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, and portions of the Torres-
16 Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians' Reservation, overwhelming requests for resources, including, but not
17 limited to, swift water rescue teams, mass care and shelter resources, transportation crews, and flood
18 control on the affected communities.

19 WHEREAS, the area known as the Lawson Landfill received an estimated 2.86" of rainfall, which
20 caused a failure of the protective berm surrounding the landfill, and a failure of the landfill's entombment
21 covering, creating conditions of dangerous contaminated flows potentially containing dioxins and furans,
22 necessitating the issuance of evacuation warnings to residents of the nearby local mobile home parks
23 below the landfill area.

24 WHEREAS, due to the potential severity of the situation and to ensure a seamless response to the
25 impacts of the abandoned landfill, multi-jurisdictional coordination between the County of Riverside,
26 Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribal Government, State of California, Federal Government and
27 Private/Non-Profits must take place, in order to lessen the impacts to the whole community.
28

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: AARON C. GETTIS DATE 9-5-23

1 WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Riverside did proclaim the
2 existence of a Local Emergency within said County on the 5th day of September, now, therefore,

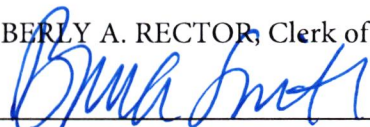
3 IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the proclamation of a Local Emergency by
4 the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Riverside is hereby ratified, and that said Local
5 Emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the County Board
6 of Supervisors of the County of Riverside.

7 ROLL CALL:

8 Ayes: Jeffries, Washington, Spiegel, Perez and Gutierrez
9 Nays: None
10 Absent: None

11 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on
12 the date therein set forth.

13 KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

14 By:  _____
15 Deputy

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17 09.12.2023 3.12
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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

WHEREAS, Ordinance 533.7 of the County of Riverside empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence of a "Local Emergency" when the Board of Supervisors is not in session and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services finds that at the time of this proclamation, the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Riverside experienced unappreciated rainfall due to the remnants from Hurricane Hilary causing widespread flooding of the Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, and North Shore areas.

WHEREAS, on September 1, the National Weather Service Phoenix, AZ, issued a series of Flash Flood Advisories, Warnings and Watches advising that conditions of damage and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the eastern portion of Riverside County.

WHEREAS, the significant flooding in the Eastern portion of Riverside County substantially impacted the county's unincorporated areas of Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, and portions of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians' Reservation, overwhelming requests for resources, including, but not limited to, swift water rescue teams, mass care and shelter resources, transportation crews, and flood control on the affected communities.

WHEREAS, the area known as the Lawson Landfill received an estimated 2.86" of rainfall, which caused a failure of the protective berm surrounding the landfill, and a failure of the landfill's entombment covering, creating conditions of dangerous contaminated flows potentially containing dioxins and furans, necessitating the issuance of evacuation warnings to residents of the nearby local mobile home parks below the landfill area.

WHEREAS, emergency testing of the location's water and soil is being coordinated, and based on the results, there may be a need to contain and remove contaminated water and soil, and creating conditions that have rapidly exhausted all local resources to repair and mitigate the site and render it safe.

WHEREAS, due to the potential severity of the situation and to ensure a seamless response to the impacts of the abandoned landfill, multi-jurisdictional coordination between the County of Riverside, Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribal Government, State of California, Federal Government and Private/Non-Profits that must take place, in order to lessen the impacts to the whole community.

WHEREAS, the potential of the aforementioned conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of a "Local Emergency".

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a "Local Emergency" exists throughout the Eastern County of Riverside; and,

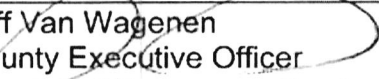
IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said "Local Emergency", the powers, functions and duties of the Director of Emergency Services and the Emergency Management Organization of this County shall be those prescribed by State law and the charter, ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the County of Riverside in order to mitigate the effects of said "Local Emergency"; and,

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that said "Local Emergency" shall be deemed to continue to exist for the next seven (7) days, and thereafter by ratification of the Board of Supervisors, until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside; and,

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the County of Riverside is requesting the Governor of the State of California assist in directing State Agencies in the repairing and mitigating of future breeches and requests that County of Riverside obtain Federal Agency assistance.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Governor of California with the request to provide and request all eligible State and Federal financial assistance to the County and impacted local jurisdictions.

Dated: September 5, 2023



Jeff Van Wageningen
County Executive Officer
Director of Emergency Services
County of Riverside

* signed up online
showed up in person

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: BRAD ANDERSON

Address: N/A

City: 1 Zip: N/A

Phone #: _____

Date: 9-12-2023 Agenda # #16, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.12, 3.19, 4.

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda/Public Comment:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, a member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. Donated time is not permitted during Public Comment.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin to flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles in order to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman, may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),
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to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Brad Anderson

Address: _____
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ **Agenda #** 3.12

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

Support **Oppose** **Neutral**

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed
for "Appeal", please state separately your position on
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Support **Oppose** **Neutral**

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

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**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

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SPEAKER'S NAME: Lupita Lua (online)

Address: _____
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ **Agenda #** 3.12

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_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

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I give my 3 minutes to: _____

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Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20230829**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on September 12, 2023

First Name

Brad

Last Name

Anderson

Address (Street, City and Zip)

N/A

Phone

7602192615

Email

ba4612442@gmail.com

Agenda Date

09/12/2023

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

3.12

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

Ratifying a "Director of Emergency Service" of Riverside County declared State of Emergency (Resolution No. 2023-253) for an unproven report of a contamination "leak" from the area (Lawson Dump) located in the area of Thermal, California.

The "break" in the reported "Protective berm" is suspicious along with the report of the "entombment covering" being damaged.

Please consider allowing citizens the opportunity to see the County's proven documents that shows any higher rates of pollution originating from the long established Lawson Dump area that's been allowed to remain for years - opposed to this State of Emergency declaration

3.12

The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board

Submitted on September 11, 2023

First Name

Maria

Last Name

Lua

Address (Street, City and Zip)

82773 Wheatley Ct, Indio, CA, 92201

Phone

7608486853

Email

mlua@leadershipcounsel.org

Agenda Date

09/12/2023

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

3.12

State your position below

Support

Comments

I am Lupita Lua with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability. We support declaring a local emergency in response to the breach of the retaining berm at the Lawson Landfill. This matter is of great concern to the neighboring mobile home parks as well as the Thermal and Oasis communities at large, who stress the immediate need to share the findings from the sample analyses and to implement necessary corrective measures. There is a specific ask to share concerns around the possibility of mosquitos carrying any dangerous bacteria or virus from the waters. The results of this matter must be shared with the impacted communities in an accessible manner including any next steps to address the issue, as well as, having a space to answer questions and hear from community members.

In addition to this, we strongly urge the county to seek financial assistance associated with the emergency declaration to address both the short-term and long-term impacts of the incident on the community. It is imperative that you establish easily accessible channels of communication for updates on testing results and collaborative decision-making regarding allocations of funds to ensure that community's needs are prioritized, and funding addresses these as well as supports prevention of similar incidents. Thank you for your time.

3.12