RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2017-597

MEETING: September 12, 2017

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Ratify Railroad, Peak, Cathedral Spires Fires Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Adopt a Resolution Ratifying the Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency Due to the Railroad, Peak and Cathedral Spires Fires; and Requesting State and Federal Resources be Made Available for the County of Mariposa.

On August 29, 2017, the Railroad Fire began in the Sugar Pine area near the Mariposa-Madera county line. Over the course of a week it managed to burn more than 11,000 acres, closing highways, damaging infrastructure, destroying structures, and threatening the Fish Camp community.

On September 3, 2017, Mariposa County received notification that a Federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the Railroad Fire had been approved for Mariposa and Madera Counties. Although some evacuations have begun to be lifted in this area, the Railroad Fire continues to burn with less than 50 percent containment.

Also on September 3, the County responded with its partner agencies to two new fires reported within Mariposa. The Peak Fire has burned more than 650 acres in the Usna area of Mariposa County. The Cathedral Spires burned approximately 5 acres in Lush Meadows, one of the County’s densest population centers. All of these fires have triggered evacuations, resulted in the loss of private residences and either damaged or created potential threats to public infrastructure.

On September 6, 2017, Board Chair Marshall Long, acting in his capacity as the Acting Director of Emergency Services pursuant to Mariposa County Code Section 2.80.040, issued the attached Proclamation declaring a local emergency as a result of the Railroad, Peak and Cathedral Spires Fires. Pursuant to Government Code Section 8630, whenever a local emergency is proclaimed by an official designated by ordinance, the local emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the governing board.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has ratified similar proclamations in the past during other emergencies.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

If the Board does not ratify the Chair’s Proclamation, the County will not be eligible for possible State or Federal disaster assistance for these events.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

2017 Additional Fires Proclamation  (PDF)
2017 Additional Fires Ratify  (DOCX)

**CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

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Dallin Kimble  
Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer  9/7/2017

**RESULT:**  ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

**MOVER:**  Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

**SECONDER:**  Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

**AYES:**  Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
PROCLAMATION BY THE EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MARIPOSA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, PROCLAMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATE AND/OR FEDERAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST WITH RECOVERY EFFORTS

WHEREAS, Section 8630 of the Government Code and Chapter 2.80 of the Mariposa County Code empower the Emergency Services Officer to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when said County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the County Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Railroad Fire ignited on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, and has burned more than 10,000 acres within Mariposa County and continues to burn; and

WHEREAS, the Peak Fire ignited on Sunday, September 3, 2017, and has burned more than 650 acres within Mariposa County and continues to burn; and

WHEREAS, the Cathedral Spires Fire ignited on Sunday, September 3, 2017, and has burned more than 5 acres within Mariposa County; and

WHEREAS, more than 400 individuals have been evacuated due to these incidents; and

WHEREAS, these conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of said County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mariposa has already deployed available resources in response to the fire and associated evacuations, security, and so forth; and

WHEREAS, the County is seeking financial assistance from the California Office of Emergency Services Director or the Office of the Governor of the State of California under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) program.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout said County.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this County shall be those prescribed by state law, and by ordinances and resolutions of this County; and that this emergency proclamation shall expire 7 days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa.

Dated: September 6, 2017

By: Marshall Long
Director of Emergency Services
5100 Bullion Street, P.O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95538

ATTEST:

TRACY GAUTHIER,
Deputy Clerk of the Board
RESOLUTION NO. 17-597

RESOLUTION RATIFYING PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING CALIFORNIA DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT (CDAA) AND OTHER STATE AND/OR FEDERAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST WITH RECOVERY

WHEREAS, Section 8630 of the Government Code mandates that a local emergency may be proclaimed by the governing body of a local agency, or, if it has been previously declared by an official designated by the governing body, such local emergency must be ratified within 7 days by the governing body of the local agency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within Mariposa County caused by the Railroad, Peak and Cathedral Spires Fires, which began between August 29 – September 3, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, serving as the director of emergency services, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency on September 6, 2017, acknowledging that a Fire Management Assistance Grant had already been issued and requesting additional resources through the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA); and

WHEREAS, these fires have burned more than 12,000 acres and caused more than 500 people to be evacuated in these areas; and

WHEREAS, local resources have been deployed to various scenes within Mariposa County, thereby depleting response resources; and

WHEREAS, local resources are unable to cope with the effects of this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of a local emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout Mariposa County and the prior Proclamation of Emergency issued by the director of emergency services is hereby ratified; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of the local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the director of emergency services and the emergency services organization of the County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and by resolutions of Mariposa County approved by the Board of Supervisors; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of California with the request that CDAA funds be made available for recovery from the effects of this emergency; and
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the State Director of the Office of Emergency Services; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the County Administrative Officer and Emergency Services Officer, or his designee, is hereby designated as the local Hazard Mitigation Coordinator of the County of Mariposa for the purpose of assessing damage within Mariposa County and consulting with federal/state survey teams about hazard mitigation actions; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the County Administrative Officer, or his designee, is hereby designated as the authorized representative for public assistance, and the County Administrative Officer, or his designee, is hereby designated as the authorized representative for individual assistance of the County of Mariposa for purposes of receipt, processing and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available state and federal assistance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, a political subdivision of the State of California, this 12th day of September, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, JONES, LONG, CANN, MENETREY
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE

MARSHALL LONG, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

RENÉ LaROCHE
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

STEVEN W. DAHLEM
County Counsel