RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2017-803

MEETING: December 5, 2017

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Adopt a Resolution Terminating the Railroad, Peak & Cathedral Spires Fires Local Emergency

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Adopt a Resolution Terminating the Railroad, Peak & Cathedral Spires Fires Local Emergency.

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. It also responded with its partner agencies to two new fires reported within Mariposa.

The Peak Fire burned more than 650 acres in the Usona 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 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 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. This proclamation was ratified at the board’s next regular meeting held September 12, 2017.

Recovery efforts for the impacted areas are ongoing and will continue as needed in the months and years ahead. In recent weeks, the California Office of Emergency Services has confirmed that promised state funding is not contingent upon the existence of an active local emergency proclamation. Finding that the threatening conditions of an active fire no longer exist and that there is no other need requiring the continuance of
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an active local emergency proclamation related to this incident, staff recommends the Board proclaim the end of this local emergency.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has terminated other local emergencies as the threat to persons and property has abated.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve this resolution. This local emergency will not be formally terminated.

ATTACHMENTS:
Railroad Fire Termination     (DOC)
Railroad Fire Proclamation    (PDF)

RESULT:    ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:    Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER:    Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES:    Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
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RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE LOCAL EMERGENCY KNOWN AS THE RAILROAD, PEAK & CATHEDRAL SPIRES FIRES

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2017, as a result of conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property impacted by the Railroad, Peak and Cathedral Spires fires, Board Chair Marshall Long, acting in his capacity as the director of emergency services pursuant to Mariposa County Code Section 2.80.040, proclaimed a local state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2017, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors ratified that proclamation, a copy of which is attached; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Mariposa County Fire Chief has made the determination that the emergency conditions, and their effects, have now abated sufficiently to cause the situation resulting from said conditions of extreme peril to be deemed to be within the control of the normal protective services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of and within said County of Mariposa; and

WHEREAS, ongoing recovery efforts include the continued commitment of California Disaster Assistance Act, Federal Fire Management Assistance Grants and any other applicable state or federal resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, State of California, does hereby terminate said local emergency and any associated powers and authorities granted to staff and the Board of Supervisors. This resolution takes effect upon approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, a political subdivision of the State of California, this 5th day of December, 2017 by the following vote:

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

[Signature]
MARSHALL LONG, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

[Signature]
RÉNÉ LaROCHE
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
STEVEN W. DAHLEM
County Counsel