

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

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TO: JANET HOGAN, County Administrative Officer  
 FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*  
 SUBJECT: FLOOD DISASTER, Res. 97-2

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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on January 7, 1997

ACTION AND VOTE:

The following persons gave a report on the flood disaster:

Supervisor Reilly advised of her efforts with the disaster and evacuations; thanked everyone involved for their efforts and assistance, including Janet Hogan, new County Administrative Officer; Deputies Rumpfelt, Mueller, and Hunt, Diane Bondshu/Human Services Department, and Blaine Shultz/Fire Chief, who assisted at the El Portal evacuation center which was set up at the El Portal School and later moved to Cedar Lodge thanks to the offer from Jerry Fischer - advised that the evacuees included families from the trailer park, news crews and tourists; Deputies Scharper and Binnewies; P. G. & E.; Caltrans; and read a letter received from Jerry Fischer acknowledging the efforts of all branches of county government.

Blaine Shultz/Fire Chief, commended Supervisor Reilly, Janet Hogan, Sheriff's Department, Bill Bondshu, Caltrans, CHP, Pat Reilly, and Art Baggett for their assistance; advised of the helicopter/air evacuation plans and food and resources provided; and advised that the emergency operations center has been open at the Sheriff's Department since January 1st.

Deputy Matt Scharper presented slides taken during the flood disaster along the Merced River.

Art Baggett commented on the amount of water flow through the Merced River during the flood.

**10:00 a.m.** The following Public Hearings were opened and continued to after the following issues: PUBLIC HEARING to Reaffirm the 1990 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as the 1996 RTP for Mariposa County; and Continued PUBLIC HEARINGS (Deliberation Phase) for the Permit Streamlining Program and Mariposa Town Planning Area (TPA) Specific Plan/Zoning Amendment.

Additional reports were given regarding the flood disaster.

Roger Matlock/Sheriff, thanked County Administrative Officer, Public Works, CHP, Caltrans, Mark Rowney/MPUD and Bill Bondshu for their support.

George Rosenburg/CHP, expressed appreciation for all of the agencies involved with the disaster; advised that now they are working to keep the road (Highway 140) open for the residents; advised that the Foresta bridge has been closed to all traffic, including pedestrian; and he is willing to hear any concerns.

Mark Rowney/MPUD, commented on damages with regards to the Saxon Creek project - they did not notice erosion or damage to the pipeline, however, the electrical units and pump motors in the vaults flooded and will need to be pulled out and repaired and this may extend the project three months.

Mark Luz/P. G. & E., commented on the damage to their utilities and noted temporary repairs are made.

Mike Edwards/Public Works Director, advised of the damage to Incline Road and their attempts to gain alternate access; they are working to get FEMA and OES teams here to do the assessments of damage; advised that Jerry Fischer has offered borrow sites for backfill materials and is working to establish a batch plant at the Parkline for a local source of materials; and commented on other road and highway damage.

Supervisor Reilly thanked Bob Johnson/PWD-Roads and the road crews for their efforts.

Diane Bondshu/Human Services Department, advised that in the beginning there were about 100 people stranded in El Portal; advised that Mr. Fischer has been working with the Gloors for interim and alternative housing; Environmental Health and Mental Health staff have been of assistance; and advised that more evacuations from the Park are planned and Red Cross is assisting.

Laurie Jurgens/Caltrans Acting Division Chief for the Stockton Office, introduced Jim Easton/Caltrans Superintendent for the Region and Gene Boesch/Caltrans Area Superintendent. Laurie advised that the Highway is undermined and they do not know the extend of the damage; they will send out a task force team this week and have met with their environmental department to proceed with repairs - however, because of environmental concerns and the Federal funding available under emergency services, the highway will only be replaced in-kind.

Lowell Young stated he hoped repairs would not be delayed due to environmental concerns, and was assured that this would not happen.

Gene Boesch/Caltrans, noted they have problems all over the State; they need to assess the damages and evaluate the integrity of the structure for the highway; their goal is to look at the damage and start getting plans, if necessary, and get an emergency contract started for repairs; funding is a major priority statewide; advised that they do not have the law enforcement authority and resources to man the road to maintain the convoy activity and will need to work with other agencies on this matter; and thanked everyone for their cooperation.

Roger Matlock offered assistance with providing office space for assessment crews.

Art Baggett, on behalf of Jerry Fischer, offered assistance with providing space for the assessment crews.

Dave Conway/Environmental Health, stated their concern is getting residents back to the trailer park when the road is accessible.

Supervisor Reilly thanked Caltrans and Leigh Gamble/Caltrans for their assistance.

Jim Easton/Caltrans, commended their Midpines crew for their efforts.

Dave Conway further commented that the major public health issue is sewage going into the Merced River - the problem has been corrected at El Portal and they are still working on the Yosemite Park issues.

Steve Hayes/Visitor Bureau Director, commended the professionals in the emergency services area for handling this situation; noted that all of the hotels are facing an impact with this disaster and they are being supportive; advised that as soon as information is known when Highway 140 and the Park will reopen, they will work to get

the information to the public; and advised that he will work to coordinate a meeting with the Board and the Tourism Advisory Council to work out a plan.

Chairman Stewart noted that the U.S. Forest Service and the Park Service has been involved with the disaster.

Blaine Shultz commended all of the agencies on their cooperation.

Ed Johnson/Planning and Building Director, advised they are working with Yosemite Motels relative to the batch plant permit, and have issued emergency permits for grading and other construction; and noted that he felt this disaster should be considered when the Yosemite Housing Plan is reviewed.

Art Baggett commended everyone for working together; and noted that this evacuation included the visiting public and not just County residents and that no one was injured.

Barry Brouillette noted that he spoke with a family who tried to visit Yosemite last year and was turned away due to the federal government shutdown, and they returned to visit this year to be evacuated during the flood.

Mary Good thanked everyone for their efforts and assistance in the emergency evacuation of her husband to Memorial North Hospital, and advised that surgery went well.

Supervisor Balmain noted that an incident of concern occurred during the disaster at the Airport which he felt needed to be addressed and suggested that it be referred to a Board subcommittee.

Janet Hogan/County Administrative Officer, suggested that a Board subcommittee be appointed to work on the flood disaster issues on a day-to-day basis as they arise, and status reports could be brought back to the Board during regular meetings. (M)Balmain, (S)Pickard, Board waived its rules requiring 72 hours agenda noticing, finding that due to the flood disaster issues may arise that require immediate attention and cannot be scheduled on the Board's regular agenda/Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Excused: Parker. (M)Balmain, (S)Pickard, Board agreed with expanding the duties of its subcommittee working on tourism related issues (Supervisors Parker and Reilly) to include working on flood disaster issues on a day-to-day basis as they arise. Subcommittee to keep Board members advised of the status of issues that arise. Supervisor Stewart asked about establishing a policy for notifying and keeping Board members informed of the status of disasters and their duties during disasters - Subcommittee to work with County Administrative Officer on this matter. Discussion was held with Mike Edwards/Public Works Director, as to whether specific authorization needs to be given to contract for the road repairs, etc., as a result of the disaster - Mike advised that he felt he has the necessary authority as Road Commissioner. Discussion was held concerning disposal of the debris - Mike Edwards advised that they are working with the Integrated Waste Board relative to exceeding their daily capacity at the landfill due to the disaster. Vote on action relative to the subcommittee/Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Excused: Parker.

(M)Pickard, (S)Reilly, direction was given to Public Works Director to continue with the monitoring at the landfill of the disaster debris disposal; and adopt the same policy for disposal of debris by the victims as was approved for the Stumpfield Fire victims - Public Works can track the disposal fees and collect from private insurance where available and waive the fees where no other method of collection is available/Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Excused: Parker.

Steve Hayes mentioned that there might be funding in Housing and Community Development where the planned use could be changed to assist in this disaster, particularly the trailer park victims. Following discussion, (M)Reilly, (S)Pickard, Res. 97-2 adopted authorizing Chairman to sign any necessary documents to redirect funds to assist with the disaster, upon recommendation of the County Administrative Officer and County Counsel. Following further discussion, motion was amended, agreeable with maker and second, to include direction that the authorization to sign documents is for cases where time dictates

that action be taken prior to a regularly scheduled meeting/Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Excused: Parker.

Public Presentations: For Non-Timed Agenda Items and for Items Not on the Agenda  
- Dana Walton, representing Congressman Radanovich, congratulated Supervisor Pickard upon his election, and Supervisors Balmain and Parker upon their re-election.

**11:13 a.m.** Recess

**11:26 a.m.** Janet Hogan/County Administrative Officer, gave a brief report on the response efforts and cooperation with the volunteers, County, State, and Federal agencies during this disaster; and shared information received from Office of Emergency Services (OES) - FEMA will tour the State beginning today and establish a center for claims for private damages (Phone Number 800-462-9029).

cc: Steve Hayes, Visitor Bureau Director  
Board of Supervisors  
Roger Matlock, Sheriff  
Blaine Shultz, Fire Chief  
Mike Edwards, Public Works Director  
Ed Johnson, Planning Director  
Jim Evans, Housing and Community Development Agency Director  
Dr. Mosher, Health Officer  
Tom Archer, Human Services Director  
Jeff Green, County Counsel  
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