

TITLE:

Resolution Confirming the Existence of a Local Emergency Due to Early February 2024 Storms, and Ratifying the City Manager's Administrative Declaration of Emergency Dated February 4, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve a motion, by simple Council majority, that an emergency situation exists authorizing consideration of this report and proposed resolution, pursuant to Government Code § 54954.2, to consider the associated confirmation of the existence of a local emergency.
2. Receive and file update from the City's Emergency Management Coordinator.
3. Adopt a resolution confirming the existence of a local emergency due to early February 2024 storms and ratifying the City Manager's Administrative Declaration of Emergency dated February 4, 2024.
4. Alternatively, discuss and take other action related to this item.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact is unknown at this time. Adoption of the resolution will allow the City to be eligible for potential financial assistance through the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA). If directed, staff will return with a financial report.

BACKGROUND:

State law allows a city to consider an item not included on its posted agenda if it finds that an "emergency situation" exists, which includes activity that severely impairs public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the Council (Gov. Code, § 54954.2 and 54956.5.) The City Council's majority approval of a finding that an emergency situation exists will enable its consideration of ratifying the declaration of a local emergency, as described below. Alternatively, the Council can consider such action if it determines, by two-thirds vote, that immediate action must be taken, and that the City became aware of such need to take action after the posting of the agenda. In either case, City staff believes that the requisite findings can be made to facilitate the Council's consideration of this agenda item.

The current severe weather event in Los Angeles County is characterized by heavy rainfall, exceeding historical averages, which has inundated the region, leading to saturated grounds and an elevated risk of flash floods and debris flow. Additionally,

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strong winds have been reported, posing a serious threat to trees and power lines. These extreme weather conditions are further compounded by the potential for widespread flooding, particularly in low-lying areas and areas with poor drainage systems.

Already, the impacts of this severe weather event have become evident. Reports indicate incidents of localized flooding in several neighborhoods, leading to property damage and disruptions to transportation networks. Emergency services have been actively responding to calls for assistance.

DISCUSSION:

The City's Emergency Management Coordinator updated the City Manager and Fire Chief about the impacts of the ongoing storm and recommended the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The City Manager concurred and the EOC was activated on February 1, 2024 to monitor the storm's impact and response.

Responding to the escalating storm, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on February 3, 2024. Acting in an abundance of caution, the City Manager, in his capacity as the City's Director of Emergency Services, officially declared a local emergency on February 4, 2024 (Attachment 1).

The Director's recommendation to the City Council for the declaration of a local emergency serves crucial purposes:

- Allowing the City to request assistance under the appropriate disaster response mechanisms, such as the California Disaster Assistance Act.
- Empowering the City Manager, or designee, to establish rules and regulations vital for the protection of life and property during the emergency, with subsequent confirmation by the City Council at the earliest practicable time.
- Authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to implement measures any actions necessary to safeguard public health and safety, in accordance with the City's emergency services code (ESMC Chapter 2-2).
- Facilitating the adoption of immediate ordinances, rules, resolutions, or regulations without prior notice or meetings with recognized employee organizations, if deemed essential by the City Council.

If City Council adopts the resolution and proclaims a local emergency, ongoing reviews will be conducted at regularly scheduled meetings until the conditions warrant termination, as mandated by Government Code § 8630. The City Council is obligated to proclaim the end of the local emergency at the earliest date that aligns with prevailing conditions.

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CITY STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Goal 2: Support Community Safety and Preparedness

Objective 2A: El Segundo is a safe and prepared community.

PREPARED BY: Todd DeVoe, Emergency Management Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: George Avery, Fire Chief

APPROVED BY: Barbara Voss, Deputy City Manager

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Declaration of Local Emergency
2. Resolution Ratifying the Existence of a Local Emergency



City of El Segundo

City Manager

Elected Officials

Drew Boyles,
Mayor

Chris Pimentel,
Mayor Pro Tem

Carol Pirsztuk,
Councilmember

Lance Giroux,
Councilmember

Ryan Baldino,
Councilmember

Tracy Weaver,
City Clerk

Matthew Robinson,
City Treasurer

Appointed Officials

Darrell George,
City Manager

Mark D. Hensley,
City Attorney

Department Directors

Barbara Voss,
Deputy City Manager

Paul Chung,
Chief Financial Officer

George Avery,
Fire Chief

Jose Calderon,
Information Technology

Aly Mancini,
Recreation Parks and
Library

Rebecca Redyk,
Human Resources

Michael Allen,
Community Development

Jaime Bermudez,
Police Chief

Elias Sassoon,
Public Works

EL SEGUNDO DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

SECTION 1. Findings.

A. Government Code Sections §§ 8558 and 8630 et seq. and El Segundo Municipal Code ("ESMC") Chapter 2-2 12 empower me, as El Segundo Director of Emergency Services, to declare the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the City Council is not in session, subject to ratification by the City Council within seven days.

B. In early February 2024 a powerful, slow moving, atmospheric river ("early February 2024 storms") struck California beginning February 1, 2024, and is expected to continue for several days threatening life and safety, public and private property and structures, and other critical infrastructure.

C. On February 4, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for eight counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles County, due to the impacts of the early February 2024 storms' high winds, damaging rain and heavy snowfall, and the state continues mobilizing and coordinating resources.

D. The City may experience significant impacts due to the early February 2024 storms' high winds and heavy rain, including, without limitation, property damage.

E. With the City Council not currently in session, I seek to declare a local emergency subject to City Council ratification within seven days.

NOW, THEREFORE, I DECLARE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF EL SEGUNDO.

SECTION 2. Direction. Pursuant to my authority as Director of Emergency Services under ESCM Chapter 2-2, I order as follows:

A. The El Segundo Emergency Organization will take steps necessary for the protection of life and property in response to the early February 2024 storms.

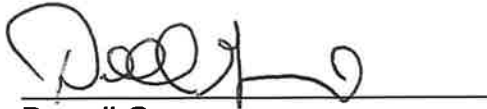
350 Main Street, El Segundo, California 90245-3813
Phone (310) 524-2300

B. City staff will appropriately track costs associated with the early February 2024 storms and assess any relevant damage to property to enable potential state and federal disaster assistance.

C. Public notice will be duly given of this Declaration through the most feasible and adequate means of disseminating such notice throughout the City.

D. City staff will take necessary steps to ensure City Council review of this Declaration within seven days

SECTION 3. *Effective Date.* This Declaration will be immediately effective this 4th day of February 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrell George', written over a horizontal line.

Darrell George

El Segundo Director of Emergency Services/City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE EXISTENCE OF A
LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO EARLY FEBRUARY 2024
STORMS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE § 8630.**

The City Council of the city of El Segundo does resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. *Findings.* The City Council finds and determines as follows:

A. In February 2024 a powerful, slow moving, atmospheric river (“early February 2024 storms”) struck California, and is expected to continue for several days threatening life and safety, public and private property and structures, and other critical infrastructure.

B. On February 4, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for eight counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles County, due to the impacts of the early February 2024 storms’ high winds, damaging rain and heavy snowfall, and the state continues mobilizing and coordinating resources.

C. Government Code Sections §§ 8558 and 8630 et seq. and El Segundo Municipal Code (“ESMC”) Chapter 2-2 12 empower the City Manager, as El Segundo Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the City Council is not in session, subject to ratification by the City Council within seven days.

D. On February 4, 2024, pursuant to the authority referenced above, the City Manager, as El Segundo Director of Emergency Services, issued a declaration of local emergency due to the early February 2024 storms (hereinafter, “Declaration”), and such Declaration is available for public inspection with the City Clerk’s office.

E. The City Council seeks to ratify the Declaration of local emergency within the time frame set forth in Government Code § 8630.

SECTION 2. *Actions.*

A. The City Council ratifies the Declaration of the existence of a local emergency caused by the early February 2024 storms as set forth in the Declaration.

B. The City Manager, as the Director of Emergency Services, is empowered to carry out all emergency powers conferred upon him/her as the Emergency Services Director by local and state laws, and by all other lawful authority, as may be necessary to protect life and property.

C. During the existence of this local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Emergency Services Director and the emergency organization of this City will be those prescribed by state law, by ordinance, and resolutions of this City approved by the City Council.

D. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the California Director of the Office of Emergency Services with a request to find it acceptable

in accordance with provisions of the Natural Disaster Assistance Act; and that the City's Emergency Services Director, or designee, is hereby declared as the City's authorized representative for the purpose of receiving, processing, and coordinating all inquiries and requirements needed to obtain available state and, if needed, federal assistance.

SECTION 3. Local Emergency Review; Termination. Pursuant to Government Code § 8630, the City Council will review the need for continuing the local emergency referenced herein at least once every 60 days until the City Council terminates the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any part of this Resolution or its application is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the City Council intends that such invalidity will not affect the effectiveness of the remaining provisions or applications and, to this end, the provisions of this Resolution are severable.

SECTION 5. Signature Authority. The Mayor, or presiding officer, is hereby authorized to affix his signature to this Resolution signifying its adoption by the City Council of the City of El Segundo, and the City Clerk, or her duly appointed deputy, is directed to attest thereto.

SECTION 6. Effective Date. This Resolution will take effect immediately upon adoption and will remain effective unless repealed or superseded.

SECTION 7. City Clerk Direction. The City Clerk will certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution, enter it in the City's book of original Resolutions, and make a record of this action in the meeting's minutes.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____,
2024.

Drew Boyles, Mayor

ATTEST:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS
CITY OF EL SEGUNDO)

I, Tracy Weaver, City Clerk of the City of El Segundo, California, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of said City is five; that the foregoing Resolution No. _____ was duly passed and adopted by said City Council, approved and signed by the Mayor of said City, and attested to by the City Clerk of said City, all at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of ____ 2024, and the same was so passed and adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Tracy Weaver, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
MARK D. HENSLEY, CITY ATTORNEY

Joaquin Vazquez, Assistant City Attorney