



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 2/3/2026

File #: 26-29

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Sheriff

Agenda Section: Departmental

Vote Requirement: Majority

SUBJECT:

Ratification of Local Emergency Proclamation Due to a 5-Alarm Structure Fire of Multiple Commercial Buildings at 10th and H Street, Arcata, CA

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Ratify the Local Emergency Proclamation issued by the Humboldt County Sheriff dated Jan. 3, 2026, due to 5-alarm structure fire involving multiple commercial buildings at 10th and H Street, Arcata, CA; and
2. Forward a copy of this signed Resolution to the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) requesting that the Director of Cal OES find this Proclamation acceptable in accordance with State law and forward this proclamation to the Governor of the State of California for consideration and action on Humboldt County's requests; and
3. Designate Patric Esh, Interim Emergency Services Program Manager, or his representatives as the authorized representative of the County of Humboldt for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available State or Federal assistance.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This action supports the following areas of your Board's Strategic Plan.

Area of Focus: Core Services/Other

Strategic Plan Category: 9999 - Core Services/Other

DISCUSSION:

The water runoff associated with fire suppression efforts resulting from the 5-alarm structure fire involving multiples commercial buildings at 10th and H Street, Arcata, CA, on Jan. 2, 2026, including runoff containing ash, debris, and potentially hazardous substances from building contents, poses an imminent threat to public health and safety and may cause significant impacts to environmental resources, including storm drain systems, surface waters, and adjacent properties. Due to these impacts and potential impacts to water quality and environmental health, including downstream effects to aquaculture operations, fisheries, and sensitive aquatic habitat, Sheriff Honsal issued a Local Emergency Proclamation on Jan. 3, 2026. These conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist and may continue as environmental hazards are assessed and mitigated, and the situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the City of Arcata and County of Humboldt.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund (1100)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The ratification of the proclamation declaring a local emergency allows the county to seek state and federal funding that may be applicable, which may include funding from the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Disaster Assistance Act, and the Stafford Act.

STAFFING IMPACT:

No staffing impact.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

State of California, United States Federal Government

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board of Supervisors may choose not to approve the proclamation, however, that would preclude the county from seeking outside assistance emergency programs to provide funding for storm damage response efforts.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution Confirming the Existence of a Local Emergency
2. Local Emergency Proclamation for 5-Alarm Structure Fire of Multiple Commercial Buildings at 10th and H Street, Arcata, CA

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A