



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 3/5/2019

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File #: 19-327

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Sheriff

**Agenda Section:** Consent

SUBJECT:

Ratification of Local Emergency Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Ratify the resolution proclaiming the existence of a local emergency following severe weather on or about Feb. 23, 2019 (Attachment 1).

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund

DISCUSSION:

Beginning on or around Feb. 23, 2019, Humboldt County experienced damage from a strong winter storm event. The storm brought heavy rain and wind, referred to as an atmospheric river, to an already saturated area of the North Coast of California, and the impacts and damages exceed available county resources.

The heavy rain has resulted in the flooding of the Eel River, Van Duzen, and Mad River. The impacts have closed State Highways 211 and 36, reduced Highway 101 to one lane at various locations, dozens of county roads around the lower Eel River Valley and Mad River Valley are impassible and closed, adjacent farmlands and cattle ranches have been flooded, low lying areas of the city of Rio Dell near Eel River have been evacuated and approximately 100 residents displaced, and homes along the Eel and Mad River deltas have been threatened.

This winter storm has also caused other damages throughout Humboldt County, including but not limited to mudslides, failed culverts, public roadway washouts, downed trees, downed powerlines, damages to public facilities, sewage treatment plants, and government infrastructure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The ratification of the resolution allows for the county to seek state and federal reimbursement for storm damage repairs. The amount of funding depends on the agencies that assist, including the State of California and federal government.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by providing for and maintaining infrastructure.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

State of California and United States federal government

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board of Supervisors may choose not to ratify the Resolution, however, that would preclude the county from seeking outside assistance from emergency programs to provide funding for road repairs and expedite the request for dredging the bay entrance earlier than the scheduled June date.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution proclaiming the existence of a local emergency due to severe weather around Feb. 23 as executed by Sheriff William F. Honsal on February 27, 2019.

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A