SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26002001

MEETING DATE:	10/27/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION:	Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S):	All Districts
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:	Sheriff-Coroner
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S):	Cory Martino, 714-647-1817 Michelle Anderson, 714-628-7158

REASON ITEM IS SUPPLEMENTAL: Proclamation of Local Emergency

JUSTIFICATION: Filing within the seven-day period required once the Chairman signs the ratified Proclamation of Local Emergency

SUBJECT: Resolution Ratifying Proclamation of Local Emergency – Norte Fire

CEO CONCUR	**COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW**	**CLERK OF THE BOARD**
Concur	Approve resolution to form	DISCUSSION 3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: N/A	**Current Year Cost:** N/A	**Annual Cost:** N/A
Staffing Impact: No		**Sole Source:** No
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A	**Funding Source:** N/A	**County Audit in Last 3 years:** No
Levine Act Review Completed? N/A		
Prior Board Action: N/A		

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Adopt resolution ratifying the Chairman of the Emergency Management Council's Proclamation of Local Emergency for the 2026 Norte Fire.

2. Direct staff to agendize this item on the December 15, 2026, Board agenda for consideration of whether to continue the emergency proclamation in effect, pursuant to Government Code section 8630 and section 3-1-6(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange and set review to determine continuing need for emergency action every sixty-days.

SUMMARY:

Adopting the resolution to ratify the proclamation will allow the County to obtain necessary resources to mitigate the damages caused by the October 2026 Norte Fire and resulting debris management.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
In accordance with Government Code Section 8630, a local emergency may be proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Orange or by an official so designated by ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

On October 16, 2026, a fire in the Cities of San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente, referred to as the Norte Fire, developed and grew rapidly due to the critically dry fuels, steep terrain, elevated temperatures, and wind-driven fire conditions. At its peak, the fire threatened approximately 4,000 homes and approximately 16,000 Orange County community members were evacuated.

At the time of this Agenda Staff Report, the Norte Fire has burned approximately 570 acres and is 90% contained. Damages include five homes destroyed and two damaged.

Two Orange County Fire Authority firefighters sustained injuries during the fire response.

Orange County Operational Area (Operational Area) jurisdictions are assessing and quantifying damages related to these incidents. Known infrastructure damaged includes Orange County Waste & Recycling's Prima Deshecha landfill.

The fire is anticipated to create an increased risk of erosion, flooding, and debris flows, and other hazards resulting from the destruction of vegetation and infrastructure which may require related debris management and removal. The California Watershed Emergency Response Team is conducting a site visit on October 22, 2026, to assist in planning for post-fire debris flow protective measures and response.

On October 20, 2026, Supervisor Chaffee, the Chairman of the Emergency Management Council of the County of Orange, proclaimed a local emergency in response to damage caused by the Norte Fire. Pursuant to Government Code Section 8630 and Section 3-1-6(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange, this Proclamation of Local Emergency is presented to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for ratification.

At the time of this Agenda Staff Report, the Orange County Fire Authority has obtained Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) approvals for the Norte Fire which may allow for cost recuperation for firefighting and life-saving emergency response efforts. Simultaneously, the local, state, and federal emergency proclamation process is being pursued concurrently in order to obtain Federal Public Assistance. Public Assistance is dependent upon meeting financial damage thresholds which will be documented through an Initial Damage Assessment Process.

Once the Initial Damage Assessment Process has been approved by CalOES, the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department (Sheriff), Emergency Management Division will coordinate the arrival and escort of preliminary damage assessment teams from the state and federal agencies. The Board will be kept apprised of this process by the Sheriff's Emergency Management Division.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Emergency response and initial damage reports from the Operational Area are in process. Depending upon the damages, County agencies and jurisdictions may be able to recover through the FMAG or Public

Assistance process some of the expenses associated with services provided during and after the fires and resulting debris management.

STAFFING IMPACT:
N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:
N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment A - Proclamation of Local Emergency Norte Fire
Attachment B - Government Code Section 8630
Attachment C - Section 3-1-6(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange
Attachment D - Draft Resolution