

To: Leon Page, County Counsel
From: Michelle Anderson, County Emergency Manager *MLA*
Date: November 6, 2025
RE: Status Report, Item 21 for November 18, 2025 Agenda: Review the Need for Continuing the Local Emergency



The Airport Fire began on September 9, 2024 and was deemed 100% contained on October 5, 2024.

County Proclamations and Ordinance Status

- The Orange County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a Local Emergency on September 10, 2024, and continued the local emergency proclamation on November 5 and December 17, 2024; and February 11, April 8, May 14, June 24, August 12, and September 23, 2025.
- The Orange County Health Officer proclaimed a Local Health Emergency on September 13th and renewed it on the 20th; the Orange County Board of Supervisors ratified the health emergency proclamation on September 24, 2024, and continued the local health emergency on November 5, December 3, December 17, 2024; and January 14, February 11, March 11, April 9, May 6, June 24, July 15, August 12, September 9, September 23, October 14, and November 4th. The continuation of the local health emergency will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on the December 2, 2025 Agenda.
- On October 8, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted an Urgency Ordinance for the Airport Fire Debris Removal Program.

Costs

The costs in the table below will increase in the future as debris removal activities continue. Estimated response costs and damages for public agencies include:

City/District	Estimated Response Costs & Damages Reported 08/11/2025	Estimated Response Costs & Damages Reported 09/17/2025	Change
Orange County Fire Authority* (OCFA)	\$1,130,000	\$1,130,000	0
Orange County CEO	\$45,640	\$45,640	0
Orange County Community Resources (OCCR)	\$19,269	\$19,269	0
OCCR - OC Animal Care	\$42,840	\$42,840	0
OCCR - OC Parks	\$152,825	\$152,825	0
Orange County Counsel	\$47,778	\$47,778	0
Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA)	\$51,412	\$51,412	0
Orange County Public Works (OCPW)	\$20,533,449	\$20,533,449	0
Orange County Sheriff-Coroner (OCSD)	\$1,934,877	\$1,934,877	0
Orange County Social Services Agency	\$46,657	\$46,657	0
Orange County Waste and Recycling	\$6,592	\$6,592	0
Rancho Santa Margarita	\$36,338	\$36,338	0
Trabuco Canyon Water District	\$1,001,000	\$1,001,000	0

* OCFA entered into a cost share agreement with the United States Forest Service (USFS), the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), and the Riverside County Fire Department for costs related to this incident. Because they are a separate government entity, no additional information is included here; it can be obtained through a request to OCFA.

Recovery Efforts

Phase 1 (Hazardous Debris Removal): Completed; no change from previous report.

Phase 1.5 (Watershed Protection): Completed; no change from previous report.

Phase 2 (Private Property Debris Removal [PPDR]): Direct assistance was not available through Cal OES so the County has proceeded with County resources, including contractors and coordinating with volunteer organizations. Below please find an update as of September 12, 2025.

- **OC Debris Removal**

- Long Canyon (100% complete)
- Holy Jim (0% complete)
 - National Forest Service (NFS) continues reviewing work plan and SWPPP. Approval not yet issued.
 - AQMD continues to review P5 Work Plans. Approval not yet issued.
 - Once start date is secured, work will take approximately 3-4 weeks to complete.
- El Cariso (Orange County side) (100% complete)
- New Issue: Should government shutdown continue past 10/31/25, NFS may be furloughed and will not be able to continue working. This may delay coordination, permits and overall project completion schedule.
- Overall: 70% complete.
- Estimated Completion Date: Late December 2025

- **Riverside County (RC) Debris Removal**

- Ongoing debris removal of properties continues.
- Vehicle abatement and hazard tree removal continues.
- No new complaints or issues identified.
- Overall: 70% complete.
- Estimated Completion Date: Late November Early December 2025

- **Trabuco Creek Road**

- No changes from the previous update. The road remains closed to the public and repairs appear to be performing as intended.

Post Fire Debris Flow Planning

Following the October storm and corresponding plan activation, the Unified Command (UC)—comprised of Orange County Public Works, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the Orange County Fire Authority, and the Director of Emergency Services (DES) for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)—met with representatives from the California Geological Survey (CGS) and the National Weather Service (NWS). Based on a joint assessment of the three storm events and ongoing burn scar recovery, the UC and DES concurred with CGS and NWS recommendations to raise the rain event thresholds for plan. In addition, the UC and DES agreed to remove Modjeska and Long Canyons from the evacuation plans, based on observations from the recent storms, and to transition to an alternative sheltering model to reflect the reduced number of residents affected. The proposed plan is agendized for review and approval by the Emergency Management Council on November 12, 2025.

The original reports continue to be available at: www.ocsheriff.gov/commands-divisions/investigations-special-operations-command/emergency-management/resources-after-0

Recommended Action

Approve continuation of Local Emergency for the Airport Fire; and order review to determine need for continuing local emergency for January 13, 2026, 9:30 a.m. and every 60 days thereafter until terminated.

cc: County Executive Officer Michelle Aguirre
Clerk of the Board Robin Stieler
Undersheriff Jeff Hallock, Sheriff-Coroner Department