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3 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
4 ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

5 May ___, 2026

6 WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 8630, a local emergency may be
7 proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Orange or by an official so designated by
8 ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors; and

9 WHEREAS, Government Code section 8630 and Section 3-1-6(a) of the Codified Ordinances of
10 the County of Orange empower the Director of Emergency Services to request the Chair of the
11 Emergency Management Council to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local
12 emergency; subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven days; and

13 WHEREAS, a hazardous materials event at a manufacturing plant was detected by the Orange
14 County Fire Authority on Thursday, May 21, 2026, within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of
15 Garden Grove; and

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17 WHEREAS, officials were unable to control the valves containing toxic chemicals and there was
18 a risk that tanks containing methyl methacrylate, a toxic chemical used to manufacture resins and
19 plastics might explode or the tank holding the chemical could fail resulting in an uncontrolled release;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, observed conditions required escalation on Friday, May 22, 2026, that resulted in
22 the evacuation of multiple bordering jurisdictions, thus requiring activation of the County of Orange and
23 Orange County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center to support field operations; and

24 WHEREAS, the hazardous materials situation progressed to impact the cities of Garden Grove,
25 Stanton, Anaheim, Cypress, Buena Park, Los Alamitos, Westminster, and Unincorporated Orange
26 County; and
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1 WHEREAS, initial reports indicated that the containment unit was overheating and could
2 potentially cause either a catastrophic explosion or a significant hazardous material release with the
3 potential to impact roughly 50,000 residents; and

4 WHEREAS, several shelters were established to house over 1,200 evacuated residents and their
5 pets; and

6 WHEREAS, on May 21, 2026 the Board of Supervisors was not in session, and the Director of
7 Emergency Services requested the Chair of the Emergency Management Council proclaim a local
8 emergency; and

9 WHEREAS, on May 22, 2026 the Chair of the Emergency Management Council proclaimed a
10 local emergency; and

11 WHEREAS, on May 23, 2026 the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of
12 emergency in the County of Orange pursuant to Government Code Section 8625 in response to the risks
13 associated with the failing chemical tank at the Garden Grove manufacturing plant; and

14 WHEREAS, on May 25, 2026 the President of the United States declared a Federal Emergency
15 in Orange Count in connection with the failing chemical tank at the Garden Grove manufacturing plant;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, a hazardous materials release has the potential to impose significant economic
18 burdens on community members, businesses, government agencies, and others due to the loss of access,
19 tourism, and impacts to commercial and industrial business; and

20 WHEREAS, since the initial proclamation of a local emergency on May 21, 2026, and as a result
21 of the coordinated efforts of first responders, the risk of explosion and/or uncontrolled release of toxic
22 chemicals have been reduced, but continue to constitute a condition of extreme peril to the safety of
23 persons and property within the territorial limits of the County of Orange; and

24 WHEREAS, the locally available resources are inadequate to cope with the emergency and such
25 conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County,
26 requiring the combined forces of other political subdivisions, jurisdictions and agencies to combat; and
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1 WHEREAS, waste collection was impacted in the area surrounding the evacuation zone causing
2 delays in collection and may require County landfills to seek a temporary waiver regarding permitted
3 tonnage or hours to assist in collection and disposal of waste in areas impacted by the emergency; and

4 WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is required to ratify the local emergency proclaimed by
5 the Chair of the Emergency Management Council on May 22, 2026 within 7 days; and

6 WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors also finds a local emergency does exist and shall be
7 deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Supervisors does
9 hereby ratify the Chair of the Emergency Management Council's May 21, 2026 Proclamation of a Local
10 Emergency.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all powers, functions, and duties of the emergency
12 organization of the County of Orange shall be vested in such persons as prescribed by federal and state
13 law, by ordinances, resolutions, and by the County of Orange and Orange County Operational Area
14 Unified Emergency Operations Plan now in effect.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all County departments and agencies take those actions,
16 measures, and steps deemed necessary to assure the safety and welfare of Orange County citizens and
17 property, including requesting mutual aid to the extent such aid is necessary.

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