

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED EXTERNAL MEMO

To: Leon Page, County Counsel
From: Michelle Anderson, County Emergency Manager *MLA*
Date: April 30, 2026
RE: Status Report, Item 14 for May 5, 2026, Agenda: Review the Need for
Continuing the Local Emergency

2026 APR 30 AM 11:37

CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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, September 23, and November 18, 2025; January 13, and March 10, 2026.
- 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, November 4, December 2, and December 16, 2025; January 13, February 10, March 10, March 24, and April 14, 2026. The continuation of the local health emergency will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on the May 5, 2026 agenda.
- On October 8, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted an Urgency Ordinance for the Airport Fire Debris Removal Program.

Costs

As of April 24, 2026, the County is projecting the following total costs for the debris removal effort:

- **Riverside County - \$25M**
 - Debris Removal - \$20M
 - Debris Monitoring (including Asbestos Testing) - \$5M
- **Orange County - \$12,656,845**
 - Debris Removal - \$11,414,362
 - Debris Monitoring - \$1,107,700
 - Asbestos Testing - \$134,783
- **Grand Total - \$37,656,845**

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]):

- **OC Debris Removal**
 - Long Canyon (100% complete)
 - Holy Jim (95% complete)
 - A permit has been obtained to address the stream-crossing cabins, and debris removal will begin on April 27, 2026. It is anticipated to take two (2) weeks to complete.

- A second round of re-scrapes will be needed for two soil test results that exceeded thresholds for two cabins. This may delay project completion
- Final decision on propane tank removal is pending and may delay project completion.
- One cabin has withdrawn from the program as the owner will complete private debris removal.
- Additional final sign offs expected to resume on April 24, 2026.
- Vehicle adjudication work continues with CHP.
- El Cariso (Orange County side) (100% complete)
- Overall: 95% complete
- Estimated Completion Date: May 2026
- **Riverside County (RC) Debris Removal**
 - Final closeout documentation continues
 - Overall: 99% complete
 - Estimated Completion Date: April 2026
- **Trabuco Creek Road**
 - The road remains closed to the public and repairs appear to be performing as intended.
 - No new issues.

Post Fire Debris Flow Events

Since the last report, there have been no activations of the Airport Fire Post-Fire Debris Flow Plan.

Recommended Action

Approve continuation of Local Emergency for the Airport Fire; and order review to determine need for continuing local emergency for June 23, 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