

**A PROCLAMATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF  
EMERGENCY SERVICES PROCLAIMING  
THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY  
PURUSANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT  
CODE §8550 et seq.**

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630 and Section 6-7 of the Kings County Code of Ordinances empower the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Kings to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session, which will have no further force or effect unless ratified by the Board within 7 days, and shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at least every sixty days and terminated at the earliest practical time, except where different timelines are otherwise lawfully prescribed or allowed;

WHEREAS, Section 6-2 of the Kings County Code of Ordinances defines "emergency" to include the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within this county caused by conditions which include, but are not limited to, air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, earthquake, or other conditions which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this county, requiring the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat;

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8680.3 defines "disaster" as "a fire, flood, storm, tidal wave, earthquake, terrorism, epidemic, or other similar public calamity that the Governor determines presents a threat to public safety";

WHEREAS, the Governor declared a State of Emergency throughout California related to the series of atmospheric river systems impacting California on January 4, 2023;

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden through the Department of Homeland Security issued a Notice of Emergency Declaration on January 9, 2023 covering areas in the State of California and on January 11, 2023 issued Amendment No. 2 to that that Notice to include Kings County;

WHEREAS, the Governor again declared a State of Emergency on March 1, 2023 due to conditions of extreme peril to the safety of person and property due to the impacts of storms across California beginning late February 2023;

WHEREAS, large amounts of snow have accumulated in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the watersheds of the Kings River, the Kaweah River, the Tule River and Deer Creek and the County anticipates flood releases from Pine Flat Dam, Terminus Dam and Success Dam and uncontrolled flood flows in Mill Creek, Dry Creek, Deer Creek and other local streams, on both the east and west sides of the Valley;

WHEREAS, additional atmospheric river storms are forecast to bring a significant amount of additional precipitation to Kings County and throughout California in a short

period of time, and this significant precipitation is causing an imminent threat of mass flooding and flood related disaster throughout Kings County;

WHEREAS, in order to prevent flooding of agricultural lands and public facilities in Kings County, including, but not limited to, public roads, farmers and local public agencies have joined together in diverting flood waters to areas of the County prepared for temporary storage of such flood waters;

WHEREAS, flooding places local agriculture at risk due to potential delays in critical activities including without limitation pruning, preparation for and planting of 2023 crops, permanent crop maintenance and animal mortality.

WHEREAS, Community members experiencing homelessness and living in river, creek, and stream beds are at particular risk of harm to their well-being, including life threatening harm, due to their heightened exposure to flooding, downed trees, and/or downed power lines;

WHEREAS, these conditions constitute an extreme peril to the health, safety and welfare of persons in Kings County, and such conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this County, therefore, necessitating this Proclamation of the existence of a local emergency;

WHEREAS, Kings County's local resources are inadequate to respond to the imminent threat, and the resources of multiple political subdivisions of the State of California are required to respond to these conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is not in session, and cannot immediately be called into session.


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Kings County Director of Emergency Services that conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the County of Kings caused by the the large amounts of snow accumulated in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, precipitation from atmospheric river storms and imminent flooding the County will experience as a result, and, therefore, a local emergency now exists in Kings County.

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED by the Kings County Director of Emergency Services that the State of California waive any regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts and to make available recovery assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act.

This Emergency Proclamation is issued pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, commencing with Government Code §8550.

This Proclamation shall be reviewed and ratified by the Kings County Board of Supervisors within 7 days, or it shall have no further force or effect. This Proclamation shall take effect immediately.

It is so ordered and declared this 10th day of March, 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Neves,  
Director of Emergency Services  
County of Kings, State of California