

CITY OF GONZALES
PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act (California Government Code Sections 8639, 8550, et seq.) defines a local emergency as the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a city which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of a city, and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630 empowers the City Council to designate by ordinance a local official with the power to proclaim a local emergency as defined by the California Emergency Services Act when the City Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.08- Emergency Services Organization of the Gonzales City Code (“GCC”) establishes a broad set of powers and responsibilities associated with disasters, and designates the City Manager as the City’s “Director of Emergency Services” with the powers and duties set forth in GCC Section 2.08.040, including but not limited to the authority to issue a proclamation of a threatened disaster or local emergency if the City Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2023, the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services issued a proclamation of local emergency due to the impacts associated with the 2023 Pineapple Express winter storm/atmospheric river and placed a Flood Watch in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2023, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency to exist in additional California counties, adding Monterey County to the March 1, 2023 declaration, as a result of the threat of winter storms bringing high winds, significant precipitation, and river and urban flooding, in order to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and to help the State prepare for storm-related impacts; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared that an emergency exists in the State of California and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides beginning on March 9, 2023, and continuing; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2023, the National Weather Service updated their Flood Warning to advise that due to the impacts associated with the 2023 Pineapple Express winter storm/atmospheric river that the Salinas River crest is expected to exceed the January crest reaching Moderate flood stage on Friday March 17, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the City of Gonzales’ residents, businesses, visitors, and staff is of the utmost importance to the City, and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community; and


WHEREAS, the City Manager of the City of Gonzales, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, does hereby find:

1. Conditions of potential extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the City of Gonzales caused by winter storms commencing on or about the 9th day of March, 2023 and expected to continue through March 18 and potentially beyond;
2. That the City Council of the City of Gonzales is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session;
3. As contemplated in the California Emergency Services Act contained in Government Code Section 8550 et seq., including Section 8558(c), a local emergency exists because of the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City of Gonzales caused by the aforesaid conditions, and the proclamation of a Local Emergency is necessary to enable the City and other local governmental entities to adequately plan, prepare and engage resources to be able to effectively respond to the threat posed by the afore-referenced winter storms/atmospheric river.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency is hereby declared on March 13, 2023, within the City of Gonzales. During the local emergency, the powers and duties of the City Manager and of the City Council shall be defined in state and federal law, and the ordinances, resolutions and approved plans of the City of Gonzales in order to mitigate the effects of said local emergency.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this proclamation shall be transmitted to the City Council within seven (7) days of enactment for ratification, and this local emergency shall continue until terminated by further declaration of the undersigned or by resolution of the City Council.

SIGNED AND SUBSCRIBED on this 13th day of March, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

By: 
Trevin W, Barber
Gonzales Director of Emergency Services