

**PROCLAMATION NO. 24-09-10-01**

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Rancho Santa Margarita Municipal Code Section 6.05.060 empowers the City Council (while in session), or the Director of Emergency Services (if the City Council is not in session), to declare the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 8550 *et seq.*, including Section 8558(c), authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim a local emergency when the City is threatened by conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City that are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, September 9, 2024, at approximately 1:30 p.m. hours, a wildfire erupted immediately adjacent to Rancho Santa Margarita jurisdictional boundaries (the "Airport Fire"); and

WHEREAS, the Airport Fire grew from an initial seven acres to over 9,000 acres in less than 24 hours, endangering nearby Rancho Santa Margarita neighborhoods, resulting in mandatory and voluntary evacuations of over 3,200 residences; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2024, at approximately 2:30 p.m., the City activated its Emergency Operations Center, initiating response coordination between the City, the Orange County Fire Authority, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and other local and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, as of the execution of this Proclamation, the Airport Fire has not been contained; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of local resources, ability to coordinate an interagency response, accelerate the procurement of vital supplies, use mutual aid, and allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments will be critical to successfully responding to the Airport Fire; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services has the authority to declare a local emergency as authorized by California Government Code Section 8630 and Rancho Santa Margarita Municipal Code Section 6.05.060.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. As contemplated in the Emergency Services Act contained in California Government Code Section 8550 *et seq.*, including Section 8558(c), and Chapter 6.05 of Title 6 of the Rancho Santa Margarita Municipal Code, a local emergency exists based on the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by a wildfire, as detailed in the recitals set forth above.

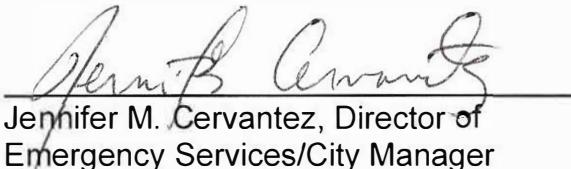
Section 2. The area of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita which is endangered/imperiled is the entire City.

Section 3. During the existence of this local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law and by ordinances, resolutions, and orders of this City, including but not limited to the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 4. The City Council shall review and ratify this proclamation of the Director of Emergency Services within **seven (7) days** as required by state law, and if ratified, shall continue to exist until the City Council proclaims the termination of this local emergency. The City Council shall review the need for continuing the local emergency as required by state law until it terminates the local emergency, and shall terminate the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

Section 5. A copy of this proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with state law; that the Governor of California, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

PROCLAIMED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

  
Jennifer M. Cervantez, Director of  
Emergency Services/City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Gregory E. Simonian, City Attorney

ATTEST:

Amy Diaz  
Amy Diaz, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE ) ss  
CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA )

I, AMY DIAZ, City Clerk of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Proclamation No. 24-09-10-01 adopted by the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

Amy Diaz  
AMY DIAZ, CITY CLERK