

# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL MEMO  
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To: Supervisor Donald Wagner, Chairman, Third District  
Members of the Board of Supervisors

From: Michelle Anderson, County Emergency Manager *MLA*

Date: January 4, 2024

RE: Status Report, Item 25, January 9, Agenda: Review the Need For Continuing the Local Emergency

2024 JAN -6 PM 2:43

CLERK OF THE BOARD  
COUNTY OF ORANGE

The following is a status report on the Proclamation of Local Emergency for the Tustin Hangar Fire (renamed the "Navy Hangar Fire").

On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, the Navy Hangar Fire broke out. The Navy Hangar fire was the largest and longest-lasting structural fire in Orange County history. At 17 stories high, over 1,000 feet long, 300 feet wide, and spanning almost 7-acres, the Navy Hangar was one of the largest wooden structures ever built. The Navy Hangar burned for 24 days (November 7 to December 1). The debris impact zone extends approximately 1.5 miles from the Navy Hangar, off of the Navy-owned site and into the surrounding communities. Over 1,500 homes affecting approximately 14,000 residents, 29 public schools within the Tustin Unified School District, numerous public parks, roads, and railroad lines have all been significantly impacted.

On November 9, 2023, the City of Tustin ("City") declared a Local State of Emergency. On November 9, 2023, Supervisor Wagner, acting as the Chair of the Emergency Management Council, issued a County Proclamation of Local Emergency, which was ratified by the Board of Supervisors at a Special Meeting on November 11, 2023. Per the California Emergency Services Act, the proclamation must be reviewed at least every 60 days and terminated when emergency conditions no longer persist. It is recommended that the local emergency proclamation be continued in support of the City as coordination with the California Office of Emergency Services, the United States Navy, and the County Health Care Agency continues.

The Navy Hangar is owned by the Department of the Navy (Navy), located on land owned and controlled by the Navy, and on November 28, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the Navy as the Responsible Party for the incident. Due to the EPA determination of an "imminent and substantial threat to human health and the environment, that must be mitigated immediately," and the Navy's inability to respond directly to the Navy Hangar fire, the Navy asked the City and other local governmental agencies to undertake immediate emergency response efforts on the Navy's behalf, which continues to this day. That Navy request, and the City's emergency response, is the basis for the Cooperative Agreement executed by the Navy on November 10, 2023. To date, the City of Tustin has committed an extraordinary \$54.2 million in contract costs for direct disaster response and cleanup mitigation efforts, significantly outpacing available financial resources. The Navy, through a Cooperative Agreement with the City, has pledged a "not to exceed" reimbursement of \$11 million, leaving a substantial funding gap of \$43.2 million. The County has separately incurred costs within the Chief Executive Office, Sheriff's Department, Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, and Community Resources.

**Recommended Action:** Approve continuation of Local Emergency for the Navy Hangar Fire; and set review to determine need for continuing local emergency for 2/27/24, 9:30 a.m. and every 60 days thereafter until terminated.

cc: County Executive Officer Frank Kim  
Clerk of the Board Robin Stieler  
Undersheriff Jeff Hallock, Sheriff-Coroner Department  
County Emergency Manager Michelle Anderson, Sheriff-Coroner Department