

To: Leon Page, County Counsel
From: Michelle Anderson, County Emergency Manager *MLA*
Date: September 17, 2025
RE: Status Report, Item 26 for September 23, 2025 Agenda: Review the Need for Continuing the Local Emergency



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, and August 12, 2025.
- 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, and September 9, 2025. The continuation of the local health emergency will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on the September 23rd Agenda as Item 18.
- On October 8, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted an Urgency Ordinance for the Airport Fire Debris Removal Program.

Costs

The costs in the table below will increase in the future as debris removal activities continue. Estimated response costs and damages for public agencies include:

City/District	Estimated Response Costs & Damages Reported 08/11/2025	Estimated Response Costs & Damages Reported 09/17/2025	Change
Orange County Fire Authority* (OCFA)	\$1,130,000	\$1,130,000	0
Orange County CEO	\$45,640	\$45,640	0
Orange County Community Resources (OCCR)	\$19,269	\$19,269	0
OCCR - OC Animal Care	\$42,840	\$42,840	0
OCCR - OC Parks	\$152,825	\$152,825	0
Orange County Counsel	\$47,778	\$47,778	0
Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA)	\$51,412	\$51,412	0
Orange County Public Works (OCPW)	\$20,533,449	\$20,533,449	0
Orange County Sheriff-Coroner (OCSD)	\$1,934,877	\$1,934,877	0
Orange County Social Services Agency	\$46,657	\$46,657	0
Orange County Waste and Recycling	\$6,592	\$6,592	0
Rancho Santa Margarita	\$36,338	\$36,338	0
Trabuco Canyon Water District	\$1,001,000	\$1,001,000	0

* OCFA entered into a cost share agreement with the United States Forest Service (USFS), the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), and the Riverside County Fire Department for costs related to this incident. Because they are a separate government entity, no additional information is included here; it can be obtained through a request to OCFA.

On August 7th, the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) issued determination letters denying California Disaster Assistance Act funding to the County of Orange and the City of Rancho Santa Margarita.

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]): Direct assistance was not available through Cal OES so the County has proceeded with County resources, including contractors and coordinating with volunteer organizations. Below please find an update as of September 12, 2025.

- **OC Debris Removal**

- Long Canyon: Debris removal has been completed.
- Holy Jim:
 - All site assessments are complete.
 - Debris removal complete pending asbestos testing results; partial results have been received.
 - Asbestos cleanup plans (AQMD P5 plans): 6 of 27 plans have been drafted.
 - OCPW and the National Forest Service (NFS) have met to establish and expedite NFS requirements. The NFS has accepted the County's hazardous tree assessments and removal will begin under a contractor assigned arborist.
- El Cariso debris removal complete pending final soil sampling results.

- **Riverside County (RC) Debris Removal**

- Debris removal on some Riverside County properties is ongoing with a tentative completion date by late November 2025.
- CHP completed destroyed vehicle scouting of the area on September 11, 2025. They will begin inspection and tagging by September 23, 2025.
- OCPW, HCA, OCWR, AQMD, and contractors will be meeting continue to collaborate on expeditious permitting reviews and expeditions to enable debris removal activities. OCPW anticipates submitting P5 Plans in bulk to AQMD.
- No new complaints have been received.

- **Trabuco Creek Road**

- No changes from the previous update. The road remains closed to the public and repairs appear to be performing as intended.

Post Fire Debris Flow Planning

The County has started reassessing the burn scar area to identify any changes over the past year that could affect the triggers or protective measures outlined in the Airport Fire Post-Fire Debris Flow Plan. This revision involves key partners who helped develop the original Burn Area Emergency Response Plan and Watershed Emergency Response Team.

The original reports continue to be available at: www.ocsheriff.gov/commands-divisions/investigations-special-operations-command/emergency-management/resources-after-0

Recommended Action

Approve continuation of Local Emergency for the Airport Fire; and order review to determine need for continuing local emergency for November 18, 2025, 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