

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS** in late December 2023 and early January 2024 severe winter storms struck southern California bringing intense rainfall to San Diego and Ventura counties; and

**WHEREAS** on January 22, 2024, San Diego County experienced historic rainfall for the month of January; and

**WHEREAS** these winter storms caused widespread flooding, mudslides, and debris flows threatening life and safety, structures, and other critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** the impacts from these winter storms also caused evacuations, road and school closures, and widespread damage to public and private property; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these winter storms; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these winter storms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these winter storms; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these winter storms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in San Diego and Ventura counties due to these winter storms.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.

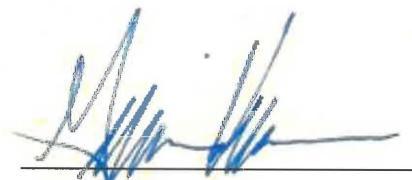
2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of these winter storms. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of these winter storms.
4. Any fairgrounds the Office of Emergency Services determines suitable to assist individuals impacted by these winter storms shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8589. The Office of Emergency Services shall notify the fairgrounds of the intended use and may immediately utilize the fairgrounds without the fairground board of directors' approval.
5. Any state-owned properties the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable to address the impacts of these winter storms shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services for this purpose in accordance with Government Code section 8570.
6. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of these winter storms and apply for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning December 21, 2023, and ending on the close of business on June 21, 2024, in San Diego and Ventura counties, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.
7. Vehicle Code sections 9265(a), 9867, 14901, 14902, and 15255.2, requiring the imposition of fees, are suspended with regard to any request for replacement of an identification card, driver's license card, vehicle registration certificate, certificate of title, or registration stickers, by any individual who loses such records as a result of these winter storms in San Diego and Ventura counties. Such records shall be replaced without charge.
8. The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 4602 and 5902, requiring the timely registration or transfer of title, are suspended with regard to any registration or transfer of title by any individual who is unable to comply with those requirements as a result of these winter storms in San Diego and Ventura counties. The time covered by this suspension shall not be included in calculating any late penalty pursuant to Vehicle Code section 9554.

9. Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees, are suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who loses such records as a result of these winter storms in San Diego and Ventura counties. Such copies shall be provided without charge.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 23rd day of January 2024.



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.  
Secretary of State