

**PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY  
BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
RELATING TO WINTER RAIN AND SNOWSTORM CONDITIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Government Code section 8630 and County of Santa Clara (“County”) Ordinance Code section A8-9 authorize the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim a local emergency when Santa Clara County is threatened by conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within Santa Clara County that are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County, and the Board of Supervisors is not in session;

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Emergency Services finds that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within Santa Clara County due to the following:

1. Beginning in late February, severe winter storms hitting a large area of California, including Santa Clara County, have brought high winds and historic levels of precipitation. This includes significant snowfall, including in areas that do not ordinarily receive snow.
2. Mount Hamilton in the Diablo Range in Eastern Santa Clara County experienced the heaviest snowfall in the San Francisco Bay Area, leading to power loss and dangerous driving conditions. As a result, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) deemed roadways on Mount Hamilton too dangerous to pass, and Mount Hamilton Road remains barricaded and closed to visitors. In addition, the Santa Cruz Mountain Range and Summit, which do not typically receive snow, experienced substantial snowfall and associated road access and safety impacts, along with sustained power outages.
3. These storms have caused and continue to threaten power outages—including sustained outages in certain areas—and have made roads treacherous, stranding residents in areas with heavy snowfall and making ingress and egress difficult even for essential services.
4. Forecasts indicate that additional storms will continue to impact California, bringing ongoing high winds, blizzard conditions at higher elevations, and rainy conditions elsewhere. In addition to the above-average precipitation levels, the storms have brought cold temperatures well below historical averages for the time of year.
5. Community members experiencing homelessness are at particular risk of harm to their safety and well-being, including life-threatening harm, due to their heightened exposure to unseasonably cold, often below-freezing temperatures.
6. The current rain and snowstorm conditions follow closely on the heels of severe winter storms that impacted the Santa Clara County area in late December 2022 into January 2023, bringing heavy rain, high winds, and saturated soils leading to downed

trees and tree limbs; downed power lines; flooded and blocked waterways; inundation and flooding of roads; road closures due to sinkholes; and debris and rockslides from hillsides.

- 7. There is an ongoing need for recovery work to restore power, clear roads of snow and debris, and provide proper ingress and egress for affected residents and for essential services.

Based on these conditions, there is an extreme threat to the safety of persons and property within the county that is, or is likely to be, beyond the ability of the County’s resources to contain;

**WHEREAS**, the California Governor proclaimed a state of emergency on March 1, 2023 based on the storms and their damaging winds, heavy rain and snowfall, and unusually cold temperatures;

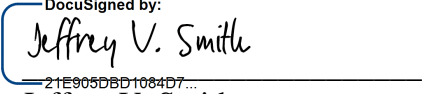
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors is not in session, and cannot immediately be called into session; and

**WHEREAS**, during a local emergency, the Director of Emergency Services or other person authorized to serve in that capacity under County Ordinance Code section A8-8 is empowered by County Ordinance Code section A8-15 to issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by the emergency, provided they are confirmed at the earliest possible time by the Board of Supervisors;


**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Director of Emergency Services hereby (1) proclaims that a local emergency, as defined in Government Code section 8558 and County Ordinance Code section A8-3, now exists within Santa Clara County; and (2) requests that the Governor of the State of California include Santa Clara County within the State emergency proclamation to assist with recovery actions required in Santa Clara County, including its affected cities and special districts.

The local emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

Date: 3/8/2023  
Time: 5:10

By:   
Jeffrey V. Smith  
County Executive/Director of Emergency Services

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

  
Kavita Narayan  
Assistant County Counsel