



# STAFF REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From the City Manager

**DATE:** January 9, 2023

## **SUBJECT**

Consideration of a Resolution Ratifying the January 5, 2023 Local Emergency Proclamation and Update on City of Redwood City 2023 Winter Storm Response

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Redwood City Confirming the January 5, 2023 Proclamation of the Existence of A Local Emergency by the City Manager of the City of Redwood City, Acting as Emergency Services Director; and
2. Receive an update on the City of Redwood City 2023 Winter Storm Response.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

Public Safety

## **BACKGROUND**

An intense winter storm event began December 31, 2022 in northern California, and storm impacts are expected into the week of January 9, 2023. On January 3, San Mateo County proclaimed a state of emergency due to storm impacts and on January 4, 2023 Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency throughout California to support winter storm response. The City of Redwood City opened an Emergency Operations Center on December 31, 2022 to coordinate storm response and on January 5, 2023 the City Manager issued a local emergency proclamation.

## **ANALYSIS**

The City of Redwood City has been impacted by the winter storm event which began on December 31, 2022, and City resources have focused on preparation, response, and recovery following waves of storms. Impacts to date have included local flooding (severe at times); downed trees; and periodic power outages. The community may experience additional impacts as soil is saturated, and additional rain and wind may

result in more downed trees and landslides as well as flooding. At the January 9, 2023 City Council meeting, staff will provide an update on storm preparations and storm impacts. The City's emergency operations center remains open to coordinate the City's response internally and with other agencies, such as the County of San Mateo and the City of San Carlos. The City Manager declared a local emergency on January 5 (Attachment A), and seeks City Council ratification of that proclamation at the January 9, 2023 City Council meeting (Attachment B). The emergency declaration provides the City with flexibility in purchasing, which may be needed for emergency response, and in other activities to meet community needs arising from storm activity.

The City's top objectives during emergency response are to preserve human life and to avoid property and environmental damage to the extent possible. This includes providing for the needs of emergency personnel. Effective emergency response requires community partnership, including advance preparations such as private property maintenance. The City sought to communicate proactively with community members regarding storm preparation and recovery efforts; this work will continue. The City also opened an evacuation center at the Veteran's Memorial Senior Center on December 31, 2022 and January 4, 2023; the evacuation center may continue operating based on community needs. Additionally, the City conducted outreach to unhoused residents to provide information about the storms and special shelter opportunities, in partnership with San Mateo County. The City distributed information in Spanish and English, increasing communications over the course of the response.

During and following emergencies, the City takes in information about community needs and uses that information for future planning and response. The City has an Emergency Operations Plan which is updated regularly and will be updated later this year for City Council consideration. Additional opportunities to consider emergency response capabilities include review of studies now underway on City fire and police services; consideration of other City services provided as part of the annual operating budget; and discussion of the City's capital improvement budget. These studies and the operating and capital budgets will be considered by the City Council this spring.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

In preparing for and responding to anticipated storms, the City considered the needs of vulnerable residents, particularly those living in areas prone to flooding. The City provided additional stormwater pumps in some locations and opened an evacuation center to provide assistance to individuals who might be required to, or choose to, evacuate, and strove to provide information to unhoused residents about the storms and special shelter opportunities, in partnership with San Mateo County. The City distributed information in Spanish and English, increasing communications over the course of the response.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There are no direct fiscal impacts associated with the City Council ratifying the local emergency proclamation. Staff are compiling costs associated with storm response and will assess whether a budget

amendment is required. Proclamation of a local emergency may enable the City to access state or federal relief funds in the future, should such funds become available.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This activity is not a project under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as defined in CEQA Guidelines, section 15378, because it has no potential for resulting in either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. The City Council may choose not to ratify the local emergency declaration; this would limit staff flexibility in responding to emergency conditions resulting from winter storms.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT A: Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency

ATTACHMENT B: Resolution Ratifying Emergency Proclamation

## **REPORT PREPARED BY:**

Melissa Stevenson Diaz, City Manager  
mdiaz@redwoodcity.org  
650-780-7301

## **APPROVED BY:**

Melissa Stevenson Diaz, City Manager