



DIANNE JACOB
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 28, 2016

23

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: BORDER FIRE 2016: ESTABLISH A BIN DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM TO ASSIST FIRE SURVIVORS; ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE REBUILDING OF STRUCTURES DAMAGED OR DESTROYED IN THE FIRE ELIGIBLE FOR PERMIT FEE WAIVERS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA (DISTRICT: 2)

Overview

The Border Fire in Eastern San Diego County started June 19, 2016, prompting hundreds of evacuations in the communities of Potrero, Lake Morena, Campo and the surrounding areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. At the time of the drafting of this Board letter, 1,901 personnel were still working to contain the fire, which had scorched more than 6,800 acres. An initial damage assessment showed the fire had destroyed five homes and 11 outbuildings on eight properties.

Now, residents who have lost homes or significant structures face the immediate challenge of removing fire debris from their property, and then the long road to rebuilding – difficult challenges all the more daunting because of the shock and grief many fire survivors experience. Today’s actions are intended to remove some financial and logistical hurdles these survivors might otherwise face.

Today’s actions would direct the Chief Administrative Officer to assist these residents and help protect the greater community and environment by establishing a bin distribution program to assist residents or homeowners with clearing fire-damaged properties.

Today’s actions would also adopt a resolution to formally identify areas damaged by the 2016 Border Fire and make the property owners who lost legally built structures in the unincorporated area eligible for plan check review and permit fee waivers, as authorized by the County’s Administrative Code.

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Recommendation(s)

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN DIANNE JACOB

1. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants and Revenue Contracts, Department Responsibility for Full Cost Recovery to establish a program to assist residents with property clean up and to eliminate the plan check review and building permit fees related to the rebuilding of legally built structures of like size and location in the unincorporated area needing County approvals that were damaged or destroyed by the 2016 Border Fire.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to assist residents and property owners with homes or significant structures burned or destroyed in the 2016 Border Fire with disposal of fire debris by establishing a bin distribution program.
3. Adopt a resolution entitled “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DECLARING THE REBUILDING OF STRUCTURES DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY THE 2016 BORDER FIRE ELIGIBLE FOR PERMIT FEE WAIVERS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA”

Fiscal Impact

Funds for this request are not included in in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Operational Plan. Staff will return if the Board to appropriate funds if necessary. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

The Border Fire in Eastern San Diego County started June 19, 2016 in record heat. The wildfire prompted hundreds of evacuations in the rural communities of Potrero, Lake Morena, Campo and surrounding areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. At the time of the drafting of this Board letter, more than 1,901 personnel were still working to contain the fire, which had scorched more than 6,800 acres. An initial damage assessment showed the fire had destroyed five homes and 11 outbuildings on eight properties.

Now, residents who have lost homes or significant structures face the immediate challenge of disposing of the fire debris on their property, and then the long road to rebuilding – difficult challenges made all the more daunting because of the shock and grief many fire survivors experience.

Today’s actions would direct the Chief Administrative Officer to assist these residents and help protect the community and environment by developing a bin distribution program to assist

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residents or homeowners with clearing fire damaged properties. Because approximately eight properties have been impacted by the fire and may contain household hazardous materials, Department of Environmental Health staff will survey the properties to identify if such materials are present. Guidance for disposal of household hazardous materials will be provided to property owners impacted by the fire, and disposal options may include a one-day Household Hazardous Waste disposal event or removal assistance as necessary. Additionally, the Department of Public Works staff, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Purchasing and Contracting, and the Department of General Services, will provide a bin distribution program to assist affected property owners in disposing of non-hazardous structural and fire-related debris. At the time of docketing, the fire is still active, and the program will take into consideration additional impacts and debris as necessary.

Today's actions would also adopt a resolution to formally define the areas damaged by the Border Fire and make the property owners who lost legal structures in the unincorporated area eligible for plan check review and permit fee waivers as set forth in the County Administrative Code, Section 362(b)(10), Section 362.1 (d), Item 17, Section 362.2 (c), Item 1, Section 362.5(b)(6) and San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinance Section 65.107(m)(9).

If approved, the proposed fee waivers would apply only to legally built structures of like size and location in the unincorporated area or areas in other jurisdictions needing County approvals which have been damaged or destroyed by the Border Fire wildfires and are located within the boundaries of the geographical area that has been defined by resolution of this Board of Supervisors to be eligible for the fee waivers.

The cause of the 2016 Border Fire remains under investigation. It broke out in record heat, in moderate westerly winds, reminding the region that wildfire is a year-round threat, not reserved for the traditional October peak fire season. The quick response by CAL FIRE, County agencies, including the Sheriff's Department, and cooperating agencies has so far helped protect the community against more extensive property loss or significant injury. The County of San Diego has invested over \$351 million dollars to improve fire protection and emergency medical services since the deadly wildfires of 2003. Today's action will build on these efforts and assist residents in recovering as quickly as possible.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

Today's actions support the Safe Communities and Sustainable Environments Strategic Initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2016-2021 Strategic Plan by helping residents and communities recover from the emotional, financial and environmental impacts of wildfire.

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Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT A

A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego Declaring the Rebuilding of Structures Damaged or Destroyed by the 2016 Border fire and Eligible for Permit Fee Waivers in the Unincorporated Area.

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

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