

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Office of Emergency Services	(2) MEETING DATE 3/26/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Ron Alsop, Emergency Services Manager, (805) 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve and adopt the attached resolution proclaiming the week of March 24 – 30, 2013 as "Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Week" in San Luis Obispo County			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution proclaiming the week of March 24 - 30, 2013 as "Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Week" in San Luis Obispo County.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S)	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Office of Emergency Services / Ron Alsop, Emergency Services

DATE: 3/26/2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve and adopt the attached resolution proclaiming the week of March 24 – 30, 2013 as "Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Week" in San Luis Obispo County

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution proclaiming the week of March 24 - 30, 2013 as "Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Week" in San Luis Obispo County.

## **DISCUSSION**

The week of March 24 – 30 is designated as Tsunami Preparedness and Awareness Week by the state and federal Government, specifically the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the California Emergency Management Agency. The proclamation is to help remind coastal residents and visitors of the need to be prepared for a damaging tsunami. Having the Board adopt a resolution will help with our efforts to spread the word locally through news releases, social media, and other public information outlets.

California has been hit by a number of tsunamis, including the March 11, 2011 Japan earthquake generated tsunami. The magnitude-9.0 earthquake near Honshu, Japan, generated a tsunami that claimed at least one life and tens of millions of dollars in property on the California coast, including damages in Morro Bay and significant damages to Santa Cruz harbor. Nearly 50 years ago, on March 27, 1964, a tsunami resulting from the "Great Alaska" earthquake caused 12 deaths and \$10 million in damage in California.

A tsunami is a series of sea waves most commonly caused by an earthquake under the ocean floor. The waves can come ashore in a series for several hours and the first wave is usually not the largest. Unlike the wind waves that surfers love, a tsunami typically has a much longer wave length and often comes ashore more like a flooding tide than an actual wave. The outgoing wave and subsequent incoming waves can be filled with debris adding to the hazard.

The coastline of San Luis Obispo County faces multiple tsunami risks. A distant source tsunami is the most probable; this is a tsunami caused by a great quake somewhere on the Pacific Rim, such as the recent Chilean earthquake and the previously mentioned Japanese earthquake March 11, 2011. A distant source tsunami can give emergency management and public safety personnel up to several hours warning in which to notify the public and evacuate coastal areas.

A local source tsunami is less likely, but is still a possibility that we must be ready for. This would be a tsunami caused by a major local earthquake that ruptures the ocean floor or causes an undersea landslide immediately off our coast. While less probable, this type of event would not allow time for any official warning to the public. Instead, the earthquake itself is the warning and the first waves could come ashore in a matter of minutes. In the local source event where tsunami waves could come ashore in minutes, people in vulnerable locations should immediately move inland and to high ground without waiting for an official warning.

The public will be advised of tsunami alerts in several ways in the event of an actual tsunami warning. The Emergency Alert System may be activated on commercial television and radio stations and the county's Reverse 9-1-1 system may be used to make telephone notifications to warn people in the coastal areas and give specific emergency information and instructions such as going to higher ground. It is also possible the Early Warning System sirens located along the coast in the Diablo Canyon Emergency Planning Zone could be sounded.

To find out if one lives or works in a potential tsunami danger area, visit the California Emergency Management Agency web site at <http://myhazard.calema.ca.gov>. By entering your address you can determine your vulnerability to tsunamis and other natural hazards.

For more Tsunami or Emergency Preparedness information and links to various information sites, please visit the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) web site at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/oes.htm>.

#### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

County OES works closely with the California Emergency Management Agency, California Geological Survey and NOAA's National Weather Service on preparedness efforts such as tsunami readiness. OES will also be issuing news releases through commercial media related to tsunami preparedness. In addition, OES shares readiness information with local jurisdictions including cities, special districts, and other coastal entities.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no costs related to this request other than incidental budgeted costs with the OES Fund Center.

#### **RESULTS**

To help ensure the safety and interests of the county and its citizens are met through increased awareness and preparation of the public and businesses.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**