



**COUNTY OF ORANGE
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE # 002

Date: September 17, 2026

Time: 1500 hours

**ORANGE COUNTY PROCLAIMS STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
RELATED TO HURRICANE MARIE**

On September 17, 2026, the County of Orange proclaimed a local emergency in response to the ongoing coastal impacts related to Hurricane Marie. The Director of Emergency Services requested that the Chair of the Board of Supervisors and Chair of Orange County's Emergency Management Council Doug Chaffee sign the proclamation of local emergency. The local emergency proclamation was approved and will be considered for ratification at a special meeting to be scheduled next week. Details of the meeting will be forthcoming.

The Cities of Dana Point, Laguna Beach and San Clemente have each proclaimed local emergencies in response to weather and tidal events caused by Hurricane Marie that have resulted in significant damage to public infrastructure and private property within their respective cities.

Orange County coastal cities have requested that the County of Orange proclaim a Local Emergency in its capacity as the Operational Area (OA) and in support of the needs of coastal communities and jurisdictions impacted by Hurricane Marie and additional concern about additional El Niño-related weather events throughout the upcoming winter season.

The County/OA EOC (Operational Area Emergency Operations Center) continues to be activated to a Low Level, staffed by the OC Sheriff's Department (OCSD) Emergency Management Division personnel.

Release authorized by: Jessica Watt Title: DES

Email or Faxed/time: _____

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Residents are encouraged to stay informed of the most current information by monitoring:

- ✓ @OCGovCA on X
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- ✓ Local media

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Sent by: _____ Date/Time: _____



DOUG CHAFFEE

CHAIR, ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION NORTH
400 W. CIVIC CENTER DR.
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701
PHONE (714) 834-3440

COUNTY OF ORANGE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 8630, a local emergency may be proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Orange or by an official so designated by ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-1-6(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange provides that the Director of Emergency Services shall request the Board of Supervisors to proclaim a local emergency when the Board of Supervisors is in session and the Chair of the Emergency Management Council to so proclaim when the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is not currently in session, and the Director of Emergency Services has requested that the Chair of the Emergency Management Council proclaim a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2026 the City of Dana Point proclaimed a local emergency in the City of Dana Point due to coastal flooding in the City caused by Hurricane Marie, which caused damage to multiple properties in the City; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2026 the City of Laguna Beach proclaimed a local emergency in the City of Laguna Beach coastal areas due to dangerous beach conditions that resulted in significant sand movement and coastline erosion throughout the City, significant surf,

rip currents, and resulted in the yellow tagging of six (6) ocean front homes and temporary closure of City beaches and facilities caused by high tides and swells from Hurricane Marie; and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2026, the City of San Clemente proclaimed a Local Emergency in response to weather and tidal events caused by Hurricane Marie that have resulted in significant damage to public infrastructure and private property in the City; and

WHEREAS, sand that served as a protective barrier to coastal infrastructure and homes has been lost to such extent that future buffering and berm protective measures may not possible; and

WHEREAS, coastal wastewater infrastructure previously protected by sand and retaining walls has been exposed and could be vulnerable to future damages which could result in a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the coastal railroad has between Orange County and San Diego suffered service disruption, track and slope damage, and emergency repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Emergency Operations Center was activated at a "Low Level" on September 11, 2026 as is required by Cal. Code Regs. Title 19, Section 2409 (f) when two or more cities within the operational area have declared or proclaimed a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates that storms like Hurricane Marie and others may proliferate during the upcoming winter season which create the possibility of further El Nino weather related conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, impacts from Hurricane Marie and projected weather conditions are currently, and have the potential to become, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the County of Orange which conditions are or have the potential to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the County of Orange, and could require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, coastal cities have requested that the County proclaim a Local Emergency in its capacity as the representative of the Operational Area (OA) and in support of the needs of coastal communities and jurisdictions impacted by Hurricane Marie and additional concern about additional El Nino related weather events throughout the upcoming winter season; and

WHEREAS, the County of Orange wants to assist impacted jurisdictions with Hurricane Marie disaster response and proactively prepare for potential El Nino weather impacts.

IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a Local Emergency exists within the coastal areas of the County of Orange as result of impacts from Hurricane Marie and are likely to become exacerbated by El Nino weather patterns this winter season;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that as of this date all County departments and agencies take those actions, measures and steps deemed necessary to assure the safety and welfare of Orange County residents and property, including requesting mutual aid to the extent such aid may become necessary.

ACCORDINGLY, THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTING AS THE CHAIR OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL HEREBY REQUESTS that the Governor:

PROCLAIM a State of Emergency and make all relevant funds available to the County of Orange and all impacted jurisdictions and eligible community members and businesses, including but not limited to California Disaster Assistance Act funds and State Private Nonprofit Organization Assistance Program funds; and

REQUEST that the President of the United States make a Presidential Declaration of Emergency in and for the County of Orange and make all relevant funds available to the County of Orange and all impacted jurisdictions and eligible community members and businesses, including, but not limited to, aid provided by the Small Business Administration, should they be needed in response to impacts from Hurricane Marie and during this coming El Nino storm season; and

DIRECT the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Regional Operations and appropriate recovery support personnel to assist with damage assessments of affected coastal communities in Orange County.

DIRECT state agencies to assess state-owned property along the coast for needed erosion mitigation efforts. State-owned property adjacent to private property should be assessed for erosion mitigation efforts the state can undertake to better protect the lives and property of Orange County residents.

STREAMLINE state permitting processes for properties at risk and direct state agencies, boards, and commissions to waive permitting fees and remediation requirements for projects receiving expedited emergency permits.

PRIORITIZE rapid funding of projects identified in Hazard Mitigation Plans that relate to coastal erosion, flooding, and related coastal hazards.

ASSIST exercise emergency powers to grant immediate mortgage forbearance for homeowners devastated by Hurricane Marie.

Date: 9/17/2026

Signed: Doug Chaffee
Doug Chaffee,
Chair of the Board of Supervisors and
Chair of the Emergency Management Council County of
Orange

