

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS** on December 20, 2022, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake occurred off the Northern California coastline near the City of Ferndale in Humboldt County, impacting local and tribal communities; and

**WHEREAS** multiple earthquake aftershocks continue to impact the region, including a magnitude 4.6 aftershock near the City of Rio Dell; and

**WHEREAS** the earthquake resulted in strong motion shaking that damaged roads, bridges and buildings, including schools, and resulted in structure fires; and

**WHEREAS** the earthquake has displaced hundreds of individuals, and resulted in multiple injuries and two fatalities; and

**WHEREAS** the earthquake has forced road closures, including closure of the Fernbridge on Highway 211; and

**WHEREAS** the earthquake has caused widespread power outages and communications cell tower outages, impacting thousands of customers; and

**WHEREAS** the earthquake damaged critical lifeline infrastructure, including water lines and gas lines, impacting communities throughout the county; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist in Humboldt County due to the earthquake; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the earthquake, by reason of its magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by the earthquake; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the earthquake.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Humboldt County.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of the earthquake. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address promptly the effects of the earthquake.
4. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of the earthquake who applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning December 20, 2022, and ending on the close of business on June 20, 2023, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.
5. Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees are hereby suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who lost such records as a result of the earthquake. Such copies shall be provided without charge.
6. Any fairgrounds that the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable to assist individuals impacted by this earthquake shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8589. The Office of Emergency Services shall notify the fairgrounds of the intended use and may immediately utilize the fairgrounds without the fairground board of directors' approval.
7. Any state-owned properties that the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable for temporary sheltering of individuals impacted by this earthquake shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services for this purpose in accordance with Government Code section 8570.

8. The California Department of Transportation shall formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, United States Code, Title 23, section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for highway repairs or reconstruction.
9. The California National Guard may be mobilized under Military and Veterans Code section 146 to support disaster response and relief efforts, as directed by the Office of Emergency Services, and to coordinate with all relevant state agencies and state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas. Sections 147 and 188 of the Military and Veterans Code are applicable during the period of participation in this mission, exempting the California Military Department from applicable procurement rules for specified emergency purchases, and those rules are hereby suspended.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.


This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 20th day of December 2022.



  
GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

  
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.  
Secretary of State