

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS beginning on May 21, 2026, a chemical storage tank containing approximately 5,000 to 7,000 gallons of methyl methacrylate, a volatile and highly flammable liquid, began heating up and emitting toxic fumes at a GKN Aerospace facility in the City of Garden Grove within Orange County ("Orange County Chemical Incident"); and

WHEREAS the Orange County Fire Authority promptly arrived on the scene, and Orange County activated its emergency operations center in response to the Orange County Chemical Incident; and

WHEREAS the area surrounding the Orange County Chemical Incident is under an evacuation order, to which approximately 50,000 local residents are subject, and additional shelter space for some residents is needed; and

WHEREAS despite efforts to mitigate the Orange County Chemical Incident and prevent further releases, significant risk remains of a catastrophic event that could lead to a hazardous release of dangerous chemicals; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of disaster exist due to the Orange County Chemical Incident in Orange County; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the Orange County Chemical Incident, by reason of its magnitude and impact, 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 fuel distribution disruption caused by the Orange County Chemical Incident in Orange County; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the Orange County Chemical Incident.

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 Orange County due to the Orange County Chemical Incident.

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 Orange County Chemical Incident. 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 the effects of the Orange County Chemical Incident.
4. Any fairgrounds that the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable to assist individuals impacted by the Orange County Chemical Incident 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.
5. Any state-owned properties that the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable for temporary sheltering of individuals impacted by the Orange County Chemical Incident shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services for this purpose in accordance with Government Code section 8570.
6. 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 23rd day
of May 2026.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

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