The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma met this date in adjourned session with the following members present: Susan Gorin, David Rabbitt, Shirlee Zane, Mike McGuire, Efren Carrillo (participating via conference call).

Chairman David Rabbitt presiding.

Present: Veronica A. Ferguson, County Administrator
Bruce Goldstein, County Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER  2:36 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  2:37 p.m.

III. RATIFICATION OF THE PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE – ADOPT A RESOLUTION RATIFYING A PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN SONOMA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA DUE TO DAMAGE ARISING FROM THE AUGUST 24, 2014 SOUTH NAPA EARTHQUAKE  2:38 p.m.

The County Administrator gave a review of the events that occurred on the date of the South Napa Earthquake, August 24, 2014.

Christopher Helgren, Emergency Operations Manager, gave an update on the decision to call for an emergency declaration. The decision occurred over the weekend when it was known that the President of the United States would declare a national emergency. Other Emergency Operation Center (EOC) briefings have continued since then. Individuals should communicate with the County if they have damage, so that the damage can be recorded damage, and people can file for assistance. Staff are continuing to inspect buildings, and no major damage has been found. Permit Resource Management Department (PRMD) has an earthquake hotline listed on the website at 565-3856. Local inspections have proceeded. A PowerPoint presentation was given by Tennis Wick, PRMD Director, including pictures of damage from survey teams. $1.6M dollars in damage has been found in Sonoma Valley. The public information process in the EOC was reviewed by Peter Rumble, Deputy County Administrator, and regular updates will continue to be shared with the Board.

Supervisor Rabbitt surveyed the area with Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Fire Chief Terrell, and community representatives. Debriefings will follow on what went right and what went wrong. Mutual aid was successful, including aid from
County of Sonoma inspectors. PG&E performed well, helping 70,000 people without power, as well as detecting gas leaks with a high tech truck. Water leaks were hard to control. Some buildings were retrofitted, but still were red tagged, because the buildings next door to them weren’t retrofitted. 700 residences in mobile home parks which shifted off their platforms were red tagged.

Supervisor Gorin thanked all those involved for their hard work. This was a minor earthquake, and a good wake up call for us all to be better prepared. The earthquake time was good, so more people weren’t in and around the effected businesses. She thanked Congressman Thompson’s work going door-to-door in Sonoma Valley. She asked for a set of protocols to work with the community, staff, and the Supervisors, so that they can be better used as a conduit for community messaging. She will host a future town hall meeting to review what occurred and emergency procedures.

County Administrator Ferguson shared the last week was used for damage assessment to make it more accurate. They’ve been waiting for the Governor and President to allow for public assistance funds to become available. There could be state or Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) funds available, such as low interest loans to non-profits from the Small Business Association.

Supervisor Zane asked that the FEMA process and protocols be better available to the public. The Water District is a part of the Emergency Center, and they conducted an initial assessment on the water supply with everything looking good via camera inspections. She also wants to ensure that hospital back-up generators work during severe power outages. She is also interested in better protocols for elected officials to connect with the public and each other during an emergency, such as via social media.

Supervisor McGuire feels the communication tree with the Board is critical.

Supervisor Carrillo received a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) update from the Napa representative. There was a fantastic initial response from the local government agencies. Flood mitigation programs and partnerships arose during this emergency from past disasters, which are not uncommon in our area.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA  3:39 P.M.

No public speakers.

Board Action: UNANIMOUS VOTE
(Supervisor Carrillo voted via conference call)
Approved by Resolution 14-0344

V. ADJOURN  3:40 P.M. The Board adjourned the meeting to September 9, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Epstein
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board