

# Declaration of Local Emergency



City Hall  
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

## **FOR AN EMERGENCY CONDITION RESULTING FROM A WATER MAIN BREAK AND SINKHOLE AT CARLSBAD VILLAGE DRIVE AND EL CAMINO REAL**

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours on or about 4 a.m. on January 31, 2026, a water main break occurred at the intersection of Carlsbad Village Drive and El Camino Real; and

WHEREAS, the water main break was sudden and unexpected and resulted in a large sinkhole and buckling in the roadway affecting six traffic lanes across El Camino Real as well as four traffic lanes across Carlsbad Village Drive and other infrastructure in both directions of major north-south and east-west thoroughfares vital to traffic circulation within the city; and

WHEREAS, the water main break, sinkhole, roadway buckling and related infrastructure damage pose a clear and imminent danger and require immediate repair work, including excavation and assessment, utilities repair, and pavement restoration; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the repair work exceeds the formal bidding threshold and the formal bidding process takes approximately four to six months; and

WHEREAS, the repair work requires prompter action than formal bidding permits to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property or essential public services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Carlsbad and the Carlsbad Municipal Water District follow the procurement processes in the California Public Contract Code and the Carlsbad Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, in the case of a public emergency, California Public Contract Code Sections 22035 and 22050 and Carlsbad Municipal Code Sections 3.28.110(A) and 3.28.120 allow the City Council and Board of Directors by a four-fifths vote to authorize the repair or replacement of a public facility, take any directly related and immediate action required by the emergency, and procure the necessary equipment, services and supplies for these purposes without following formal bidding procedures; and

WHEREAS, as permitted by California Public Contract Code Section 22050(b), the City Council has delegated the authority to authorize emergency repairs to the City Manager and the Board of Directors has delegated the authority to authorize emergency repairs to the Executive Manager, subject to review by the City Council and

Emergency Condition Resulting from a Water Main Break and Sinkhole  
at Carlsbad Village Drive and El Camino Real

Page 2

Board of Directors by a four-fifths vote at their next regularly scheduled meeting not later than 14 days afterwards.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DECLARED, by the City Manager of the City of Carlsbad and Executive Manager of the Carlsbad Municipal Water District as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true and correct.
2. That subject to review by the City of Carlsbad City Council and the Carlsbad Municipal Water District Board of Directors by a four-fifths vote at their next regularly scheduled meeting, an emergency condition exists in the area of the water break and sinkhole at Carlsbad Village Drive and El Camino Real in the City of Carlsbad.
3. That city and district staff may proceed at once to obtain the necessary equipment, services, and supplies to repair the water main break and the affected infrastructure without giving notice for bids or to let contracts without following formal bidding procedures.
4. That the proposed action is statutorily exempt from environmental review under California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(2) and (4) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(b)-(c), which apply to emergency repairs to publicly owned facilities necessary to maintain service essential to public health, safety or welfare and other specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

Dated: January 31, 2026

By: *Geoff Patnoe*

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GEOFF PATNOE

City Manager/Executive Manager