

RESOLUTION

*THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION HONORING
CALFIRE and First Responders*

WHEREAS, on Sunday, August 16, 2020, fierce and unusual lightning strikes in Northern California sparked more than 585 wildfires, with 24 becoming major incidents, including 300 local lightning strikes in San Mateo County and Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, the lightning strikes coincided with a week of 100-degree heat, ongoing drought conditions and no coastal fog; and

WHEREAS, the next day, Monday, August 17, five large fires had grown in the inaccessible hilly areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains posing increasing threat due to limited resources; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of **CAL FIRE**, under the local guidance of Chief Ian Larkin and Chief Jonathan Cox, requested additional resources and collaborated with County Manager Mike Callagy, Sheriff Carlos Bolanos and the Office of Emergency Services to plan for the response to the local fires, dubbed the CZU Lightning Complex; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, the CZU Lightning Complex had quickly expanded to more than 45,000 acres, ultimately increasing to 86,509 acres including 22,755 acres in San Mateo County by September 8; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, much of southern San Mateo County including Pescadero, San Gregorio and La Honda, along with more than 70,000 people in Santa Cruz County, were within mandatory evacuation areas; and

WHEREAS, multiple County, State, and Local agencies, including FEMA, assisted at local resource centers set up at Half Moon Bay High School and then Pescadero Elementary School to aid evacuees, and the San Mateo Large Animal Evacuation Group also facilitated the safe evacuation of 1,541 animals; and

WHEREAS, due to the overwhelming number of distinct fires throughout the region, **CAL FIRE** had limited resources to battle the explosive growth of the CZU Lightning Complex, and still methodically attacked and contained the fires, thankfully preventing a much worse scenario; and

WHEREAS this disaster generated a collaborative effort of **CAL FIRE**, the La Honda Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Loma Mar Volunteer Fire Department, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, the San Mateo County Parks Department, the Puente de la Costa Sur core county agency and countless volunteers and civilians helping to battle what is now the largest fire in San Mateo County history, costing upwards of \$60 million in resources coordinated by a vital team of employees staffing the Office of Emergency Services from various departments who will be involved for months to come during the recovery period.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County hereby recognizes, commends, and is grateful to **CAL FIRE** and all the other First Responders for their historic effort to battle and contain the CZU Lightning Complex of August 2020.

Dated: September 15, 2020

SUPERVISORS:

WARREN SLOCUM, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

CAROLE GROOM

DON HORSLEY

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors