

AN ORDER BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE COUNTY OF
TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ISSUING RESTRICTIONS OF ACCESS PURSUANT
TO THE PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY ON MARCH 9, 2023 AND
CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE §8550 *et seq.*

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted by Section 1-15-1030 of the Tulare County Ordinance Code, the Tulare County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed the existence of a local emergency due to the 2023 March Storms on March 9, 2023;

WHEREAS, when a local emergency has been proclaimed, the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to make and issues rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency, provided that such rules and regulations are confirmed by the Board of Supervisors at the earliest practicable time; and

WHEREAS the 2023 March Storms continue, presenting conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Tulare; and

WHEREAS, Government Code 8634 requires that all orders necessary to protect life and property, and all amendments and rescissions to such orders, must be in writing.

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services, or successor, also hereby finds that such conditions of disaster and/or extreme peril created by the 2023 March Storms necessitate the restriction of all persons and vehicles, excepting emergency response, from the areas in or around the body and the banks of Kern, Kaweah, and Tule Rivers throughout the incorporated area of the County of Tulare.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED

That, to protect life and property, an order restricting access and use, also known as a no-entry or use order, is now in effect for the following area(s) due to the 2023 March Storms:

The Kern River will be closed for all recreational swimming, wading, and floating throughout the unincorporated County of Tulare, from Dry Meadow Creek, approximately two (2) miles east of the Johnsondale Bridge down to the Tulare/Kern County Line.

The Kaweah River will be closed for all recreational swimming, wading, and floating throughout the unincorporated County of Tulare, including access to Cobble Knoll and Slick Rock Recreational areas.

The Tule River will be closed throughout the unincorporated County of Tulare from all sites on the Middle Fork of the Tule River beginning at the entrance to the Giant Sequoia National Monument and extending to the Moorehouse Fish Hatchery just below Pier Point Springs. Also, river access is restricted on the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Tule River to Wishon Campground.

This Order is issued pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, commencing with Government Code section 8550.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order in no way limits or restricts the ability of landowners adjacent to one of the aforementioned rivers to work on repairing, restoring, building up, or otherwise maintaining levee and river bank that has been damaged as a result of storm activity. Any sandbagging, levee construction or repair, or related flood control activities on

private property shall be considered emergency response in respect to this Order's allowed activities on the Kern, Kaweah, and Tule River and banks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that entities or individuals with valid, and up to date Commercial Rafting Licenses issued by the Tulare County Resource Management Agency shall be specifically exempted from the restrictions of this Order on the Kaweah and Kern Rivers.

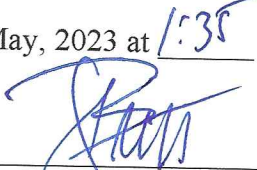
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Tulare County Sheriff and any other law enforcement personnel assigned to the 2023 March Storms, be authorized to evacuate and restrict all persons from the above areas, with reasonable force to be used as needed to enforce this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of Tulare County shall be those prescribed by State law, by ordinances and resolutions of Tulare County, and by the Tulare County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors.

This Order is issued pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, commencing with Government Code §8550. The No Entry or Use Order must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the Board of Supervisors.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

It is so ordered and proclaimed this 5th day of May, 2023 at 1:35 AM/PM.



JASON T. BRITT, CAO
Director of Emergency Services
County of Tulare