

PROCLAMATION NO. 2026-01

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA, ACTING AS THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY ARISING FROM THE HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL INCIDENT AT 12122 WESTERN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, AND AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ACTIONS

WHEREAS, Westminster Municipal Code 2.48.50 establishes the City Manager as the director of emergency services (the "Director"); and

WHEREAS, Westminster Municipal Code Section 2.48.060 empowers the Director to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the City Council and is not in session;

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8558 establishes that a "local emergency" includes conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property of the city caused by conditions such as air pollution and fire, among other reasons when such conditions are, or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat;

WHEREAS, all of these conditions apply in this instance;

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2026, at approximately 3:30 p.m., a 34,000-gallon storage tank containing methyl methacrylate overheated and began venting hazardous vapors into the air at an aerospace facility located at 12122 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, California; and

WHEREAS, methyl methacrylate (MMA) is a volatile and flammable industrial chemical used to produce acrylic plastic components for the aerospace industry, and

WHEREAS, there is the risk of an explosion and fire leading to major damage to surrounding properties and possible contamination of the local air quality at levels hazardous to humans, animals, and other living organisms; and

WHEREAS, Orange County Fire Authority officials have determined that the compromised tank can no longer be safely stabilized, and that it remains at risk of either failing and spilling its contents or entering a thermal runaway event that could cause an explosion affecting nearby tanks containing fuel and other chemicals; and

WHEREAS, evacuation orders were initially lifted Thursday evening after hours of cooling efforts, but were reinstated Friday morning as crews continued monitoring chemical readings, and the evacuation zone was subsequently expanded; and

WHEREAS, at 11:30 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, the evacuation zone is expanded to Ball Road to the north, Bolsa Chica/Valley View to the west, Dale Street to the east, and Trask Avenue to the south;

WHEREAS, current reports indicate that the area of the City which may be endangered/imperiled is bounded by Bolsa Chica/Valley View to the west, Trask Blvd to the south, Dale/Wilson Street to the east, Garden Grove Blvd. to the north; and

WHEREAS, thus far, thousands of people have been displaced; and

WHEREAS, some area school campuses have been closed and outdoor activities at adjacent schools canceled as emergency crews continue containment efforts, and evacuation centers have been established at the Westminster Senior Center, 8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, California, and another is in the process of being established at Bolsa Grande High School; and

WHEREAS, the City of Westminster lies in immediate proximity to the affected area, and the health, safety, and welfare of Westminster residents, businesses, schools, and public infrastructure are threatened by the ongoing hazardous materials incident and the risk of explosion or expanded chemical release.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED by the City Manager of the City of Westminster, California, in her capacity as Director of Emergency Services, as follows:

SECTION 1. PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

The Director finds all of the above statements to be correct. For all of the above reasons, a local emergency is hereby declared within the City of Westminster arising from the hazardous chemical incident at 12122 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, California.

SECTION 2. AUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENCY ACTIONS

The City Manager, and any of her designee(s), is/are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to protect public health and safety, including but not limited to: issuing evacuation orders or shelter-in-place directives within Westminster as warranted by conditions; coordinating with the Orange County Fire Authority, Westminster Police Department, Orange County Sheriff's Department, and Orange County Office of Emergency Services; deploying City personnel and resources in support of emergency response and public safety operations; and activating the City of Westminster Emergency Operations Center.

SECTION 3. MUTUAL AID AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The City Manager is authorized to request mutual aid from the County of Orange, neighboring cities, the State of California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and federal agencies as appropriate under the California Emergency Services Act and applicable mutual aid agreements.

SECTION 4. NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING

The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this proclamation to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State Law; that the Governor of California, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in the City of Westminster; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster

Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

SECTION 5. DURATION

The City Council shall review and consider ratification of this proclamation within 7 days of its effective date as required by state law, and if ratified, shall continue to exist until the City Council proclaims the termination of this local emergency. The City Council shall review the need for continuing the local emergency as required by state law until it terminates the local emergency, and shall terminate the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall take effect at 3:42 p.m. on this 22nd day of May 22, 2026.

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



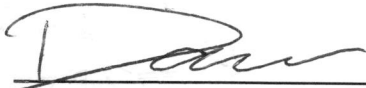
Christine Cordon
City Manager

APPROVE AS TO FORM:



Scott Porter
City Attorney

ATTEST:



Daisy Guzman
Records Coordinator, City Clerk's Office