

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND DON KNABE**

**OCTOBER 6, 2009**

**Assistance to Victims of Tsunami in American Samoa and Samoa**

On September 29, 2009, at approximately 6:17 AM local time, an underwater earthquake with a magnitude of 8.0 occurred in the Pacific Ocean near the Tongan and Fiji Islands. The earthquake generated a powerful tsunami and to date, has killed at least 140 people with many more still missing. The damage has been extensive and severe, including the obliteration of several villages on the islands of American Samoa and Samoa. President Obama declared a major federal disaster in the Territory of American Samoa, and has authorized federal aid to support local recovery efforts.

According to the data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, the County of Los Angeles is home to approximately 12,800 Samoans, many of whom live in the South Bay and South County areas of the County, including the cities Carson, Cerritos and Long Beach. These regions are the centers of social, sports, church and business activities, and many of these centers of community have mobilized in an effort to assist their families on the islands with monetary and in-kind donations.

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MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

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The American Red Cross (ARC) is also accepting monetary donations for the relief effort in American Samoa, and the International Red Cross (IRC) is accepting donations for relief efforts in Samoa. We would like to encourage Los Angeles County residents and employees to consider making a donation to the ARC or the IRC, or through any other viable entity.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. Create and distribute an informational flier promoting the American Red Cross (ARC) and the International Red Cross (IRC) as the non-profit organizations to which employees may make donations to assist those affected by the disaster in American Samoa and Samoa, and to post this information in public areas as well as establish a link to the ARC and the IRC on the County's Intranet site;
2. Include on the flier information to potential donors that on-line donations can not be "disaster-specified", i.e., may not be designated for use in specific disasters, but donations made by check may be so designated;
3. Distribute this information to all County Departments and related agencies for distribution and posting in public areas; and
4. Send a letter to the Governor of the State of California and to the Secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency to declare that the County of Los Angeles is standing by and prepared to offer assistance should notification be

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received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that state and local resources are needed for rescue and recovery in this disaster.

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