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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Supervisors Take Next Step for Future Disaster Recovery Process**

(San Diego) Understanding the need to remain proactive in dealing with natural or man-made disasters, the County Board of Supervisors today took the first step toward initiating the “Advanced Post-Disaster Recovery Initiative.” This would encompass any efforts currently underway and any new efforts necessary to develop a comprehensive program that the County can adopt before a disaster happens to accelerate recovery after a catastrophic event.

“We have seen the devastation in Japan following an earthquake and tsunami, and the incredible effort that is needed immediately after a catastrophe,” said Chairman Bill Horn. “The County has implemented strong and aggressive programs to ensure that our region is as resilient as possible, but we also need to prepare ourselves to begin recovering as quickly as possible after disaster strikes.”

The “Advanced Post-Disaster Recovery Initiative” will cover four key components: helping individual citizens recover, restoring community lifelines, rebuilding community fabric, and readying a trained workforce to conduct recovery activities in our community.

“Though the path to recovery may begin with the individual,” Horn added, “the public deserves a government that will clear that path quickly and get out of the way. With that goal in mind, we helped create The Red Guide to Disaster Recovery, the most comprehensive disaster resource guide ever produced for our region to help individuals and families through the recovery process. We would like to expand recovery knowledge to more people.”

The County built a sophisticated Emergency Operations Center that can coordinate massive evacuations with the push of a button, and there are regular multi-agency disaster response drills.

“We are ready to respond,” Horn said, “but, as many in Japan are finding out, disaster response and disaster recovery are very different.”

The Board directed the County Administrative Officer to report back within 60 days with his findings on the status of recovery assistance within the County.