

# Proclamation

## National Preparedness Month

**WHEREAS**, National Preparedness Month, observed annually in September, promotes awareness and encourages individuals, families, and communities to prepare for emergencies and disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, disasters and emergencies can strike unexpectedly and impact individuals, families, businesses, and communities, highlighting the critical importance of preparedness; and

**WHEREAS**, California is prone to major disasters and often suffers severe fires during summer seasons which residents may only have minutes before they must evacuate; and

**WHEREAS**, Menlo Park and the surrounding areas are also subject to major floods and everyone lives in an area with some flood risk; and

**WHEREAS**, California has the highest risk of earthquakes in the United States, and secondary disasters following earthquakes may include fires, structural collapse, downed power lines, flooding and extended utility outages; and

**WHEREAS**, when disaster strikes, the Bay Area may sustain catastrophic damage to buildings, roads and airports, and bridges and infrastructure may be down for days or weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, having a plan, understanding risks, and taking proactive measures can significantly reduce the impact of emergencies and improve recovery efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Menlo Park residents must be prepared in their residences with the peace of mind that they and their families are ready to weather major emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, getting to know our neighbors ahead of a disaster and having a plan to work together until outside help can arrive helps to reduce the potential for emotional and physical pain and suffering that compounds when a disaster strikes, and can lessen the burden on our first responders; and

**WHEREAS**, the time it takes for our city to recover following a significant emergency will be greatly reduced by a well-prepared community, and the people of Menlo Park have a role in preparedness, from creating emergency plans and assembling emergency kits to staying informed about potential hazards and participating in local preparedness events;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that I, Cecilia Taylor, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and the City, do hereby recognize September as National Preparedness Month and encourage all residents to engage in preparedness activities, share information with others, and take steps to safeguard themselves and their communities.



A blue ink signature of Cecilia Taylor, written in a cursive style.

Cecilia Taylor, Mayor  
September 10, 2024