



President's Waypoint: Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara

December 12, 2017

Honestly, I thought I was done with fire departments some 35 years ago. Wow, was I ever wrong!!



As of this writing, the Thomas fire has consumed an estimated 234,200 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties with only 20% containment with more than 6300 fire personnel working on the fire. Unfortunately, reports are that nearly 800 structures have been destroyed. This is now one of the largest fires in California history. Governor Brown has issued a state of emergency for the two counties.

For the College, while there is no immediate fire danger, the air quality and ash continue to impact all our campuses significantly. Additionally, we have many employees affected by voluntary or mandatory evacuations, so are staying out of the area. Certainly those employees and their families from Goleta to Ventura/Oxnard and other points South have been severely impacted. For all of these reasons and many others, I made the decision to close SBCC (all district facilities) through this week until Monday, December 18th.

Some have asked whether during the college closures, adjunct faculty and hourly classified will lose pay? My response and commitment is that if you were scheduled to teach a class as an adjunct (credit or noncredit) or work as a classified (hourly or full-time) during any day/evening that the college was closed – you will be paid as if the college were open. You will not be penalized because of the fire emergency!

We are experiencing an incredible situation with this fire. In so many ways, we are making history. One thing I know for sure is that your Emergency Operations Center team working for you is amazing! We have been meeting in person or by conference call every day (sometimes multiple times a day) since the last Monday. The team is knowledgeable, logical, conscientious, and compassionate. Students and

employees are at the center of all the team's decisions with equity always being a primary touchstone. I want to recognize this team that has put in incredible extra effort and hours in your service:

- Lyndsay Maas, Director, Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Anthony Beebe, EOC Policy Support
- Luz Reyes-Martin, EOC PIO
- Paul Jarrell, EOC Ed Programs
- Paul Bishop, EOC IT Support
- Mona Hasson, EOC HR Support
- Melissa Moreno, EOC Noncredit Support
- Erik Fricke, EOC Safety/Security Support
- Rob Morales, EOC Facilities Support
- Chris Miller, EOC Communication Support
- Alexandra Thierjung, EOC Operations Support

Please help me thank these dedicated folks for their service. They are much appreciated!

You too are part of the team and we appreciate your support and patience. Thank you so very much as we continue our way through this.

Together forward in a safe and healthy way,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony", is positioned below the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial letter.