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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ALAMEDA COUNTY REACTIVATES DISASTER RELIEF FUND
IN RESPONSE TO DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN NEPAL**

Alameda County has reactivated its Disaster Relief Fund to enable its approximately 9,500 employees and residents to voluntarily donate funds to benefit the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal on Saturday, April 25. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors formally activated the fund on Tuesday as the death toll from the 7.8-magnitude earthquake were in the thousands, with more injured and many communities reduced to rubble. Scores of people across Nepal – including more than 1 million children - are said to be in urgent need of help, with deaths and significant damage reported in neighboring China and India.

Activation of the Disaster Relief Fund enables Alameda County employees and community members to contribute cash donations to help with the earthquake recovery effort. County employees may also have the option to donate up to 5 days of their accrued vacation time, compensatory time and/or holiday in-lieu time. The Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund was initially established in response to the September 11, 2001 tragedy in the United States and has been reactivated for the South Asia Tsunami/Earthquake in 2004, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in 2010, the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in 2011, and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013.

“It is time for our community to answer the call to help the people of Nepal who urgently need our assistance,” said Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. “We know that residents of Alameda County and throughout the Bay Area have been aided in their recovery from natural disasters in the past. We also know that in our employees and communities always rise to the occasion to help others elsewhere in times of tragedy.”

Alameda County intends for all contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund to go directly to victims of the earthquake, and the significant aftershocks that have been felt across Nepal.

“In the past Alameda County employees and the residents of this community have been extremely generous in supporting others in times of crisis,” said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. “That’s why we have created our Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, because it ensures that local donations will go directly to the people who need our support the most.”

Cash donations may be contributed by sending a personal check payable to the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, c/o the Auditor-Controller Agency, 1221 Oak Street, Room 238, Oakland CA 94612. Donations via credit card or PayPal can be made online at <http://www.acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm>