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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2015

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**ALAMEDA COUNTY ACTIVATES DISASTER RELIEF FUND
TO HELP VICTIMS OF SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTINGS**

Alameda County has reactivated its Disaster Relief Fund to enable its approximately 9,600 employees and people in the community to voluntarily donate funds to benefit the victims of the horrific shooting last week in San Bernardino in which 14 people were killed and 21 others were injured.

It is the first time in a decade that the Fund has been activated in response to a domestic tragedy.

Activation of the Disaster Relief Fund enables Alameda County employees and people in the community to contribute cash donations to help those affected by the shootings – the families of those killed and those recovering from their injuries. 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 attacks 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, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 and the massive earthquake in Nepal earlier this year.

“This horrific tragedy really hits home because we realize that most of the unfortunate victims in San Bernardino were just like us – County employees working to make their communities a better place,” said Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. “We feel the need to do something that allows our employees and the community to support the many people affected by this senseless act of violence.”

All contributions to the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund will be donated directly to the San Bernardino United Relief Fund, jointly established by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and the Arrowhead United Way to address the needs of people affected by the shootings.

“In the past Alameda County employees and our residents 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 and online donations are accepted. 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. To make an online donation or to obtain additional information, go to <http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm>.