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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ALAMEDA COUNTY ACTIVATES DISASTER RELIEF FUND
TO HELP VICTIMS OF OAKLAND FIRE**

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 tragic fire late Friday at a converted warehouse space in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood. At this time, 36 people are confirmed to have died in the fire.

Activation of the Disaster Relief Fund enables Alameda County employees and people in the community to contribute cash donations to help people affected by the three-alarm fire – 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.

To make a donation to the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, go to <http://www.acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm>. Information about the Disaster Relief Fund also can be found on ACGOV Cares (<http://acgovcares.org/#disasterrelief>), a new website designed to engage County employees and residents about volunteerism and other opportunities to strengthen our communities.

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 numerous times in response to tragedies both domestic and abroad, including: Hurricane Katrina in 2005, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in 2010, the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in 2011 and the mass shootings at an Orlando, Florida nightclub earlier this year.

“This tragedy hits us all especially hard because it occurred right here in our community,” 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 heart-breaking event.”

Alameda County intends for all contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund to go directly to victims and families affected by the fire.

“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. “We created the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund to enable our employees to contribute directly and ensure that local donations will go directly to the people who need our support the most. The most recent event is right in the midst of our community and has directly affected some of our employees and their families.”

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://www.acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm>.