Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Reaffirming the existence of a local emergency due to tree mortality in Placer County

Resolution No.: 2016-160

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held August 23, 2016, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes: DURAN, HOLMES, UHLER, MONTGOMERY, WEYGANDT

Noes: NONE

Absent: NONE

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, Article 2.88 of Chapter 2 of the Placer County Code empowers the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence of a Local Emergency within the County when said County is affected or is likely to be affected by the existence or threatened existence of conditions of emergency or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of Placer County;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within Placer County, caused by the widespread and rapidly increasing incidence of tree mortality;

WHEREAS, local resources within Placer County are faced with a disaster that exceeds their functional capabilities because of the rapid increase in tree mortality and the sheer size and scope of the problem throughout Placer County;

WHEREAS, unprecedented tree mortality is causing damage to the watershed and emergency egress points, and to County and other public and district facilities including, but not limited to, roads and structures, which damages cannot yet be calculated;

WHEREAS, data collected by state and federal agencies demonstrate that tree mortality has reached epidemic levels across the entire western slope of the Sierra Nevada range which includes a large portion of Placer County, and this data indicates further tree mortality increases in the very near future and these stands of dead/dying trees constitute extremely dangerous levels of combustible fuels which directly contribute to the severity and scale of wildland fires;

WHEREAS, even if Placer County were to experience normal or higher levels of precipitation this winter, this disaster will continue unabated, or escalate, during the next five to six years due to the standing dead trees that will fall, thereby constituting immediate threats to public safety, egress points, and private homes and other structures;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Placer implement full scale, immediate and aggressive measures to isolate and fell dead/dying trees resulting from factors including, but not limited to, extreme and prolonged drought, pine beetles and other tree parasites and treat the stumps with insecticide in order to begin to reduce the risks to public safety, egress and structures as well as the destruction of the forested communities that are critical to our economy;

WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., has proclaimed a State of Emergency for all of California specifically due to tree mortality and has ordered all state agencies, utilities, and local governments to undertake efforts to remove dead or dying trees in order to restore forest and watershed health;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors does find that the aforesaid conditions and scope of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of a Local Emergency and that local resources are unable to cope with the effects of this extreme peril; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2015, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2015-253 proclaiming a local state of emergency caused by the widespread and rapidly increasing incidence of tree mortality, and Placer County Code Section 2.88.060 and state law requires that the Board review the declaration every thirty (30) days and either re-affirm or terminate the declaration of local emergency;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California, hereby reaffirms the existence of a local emergency and said emergency shall be deemed to continue until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services, or his designee, and the emergency organization of the county shall be those prescribed by state law, and by ordinance and resolutions of this county approved by the Board of Supervisors, and by the Placer Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors.