

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

**In the matter of: A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE
DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY
DUE TO IMMEDIATE PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT
CAUSED BY HAZARDOUS WASTE AND DEBRIS FROM
THE RIVER FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF COLFAX IN THE
UNINCORPORATED AREA OF PLACER COUNTY**

Resolution No.: 2021-292

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer
at a regular meeting held August 31, 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes: GORE, HOLMES, JONES, GUSTAFSON, WEYGANDT

Noes: NONE

Absent: NONE

Signed and approved by me after its passage.


Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:


Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, California Health & Safety Code sections 101075, et seq., authorize the declaration of a local health emergency by the Public Health Officer, or their designee, for any area of the County affected by hazardous waste which poses an immediate threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2021, the River Fire started near Colfax, burning 2,619 acres of land and causing significant structural damage to, or the complete destruction of, numerous private structures, resulting in the accumulation of ash debris, much of which is subject to contamination with heavy metals, asbestos, and/or other hazardous waste; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2021, the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency in Placer County due to the River Fire; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2021, the Placer County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2021, the Placer County Board of Supervisors ratified the proclamation of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2021, the Placer County Interim Health Officer declared the existence of a local health emergency due to hazardous waste in the form of debris and debris ash from fire and the potential contamination of residential food and water supplies resulting from River Fire; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code section 101080 requires the Board of Supervisors to ratify the local health emergency declaration within seven (7) days or the declaration will no longer be in force; and

WHEREAS, hazardous debris and ash from fire and the potential contamination of residential food and water supplies resulting from River Fire continues to pose a threat in the in the vicinity of Colfax in the unincorporated area of Placer County; and

WHEREAS, the release or escape of the above-mentioned conditions of hazardous waste poses a substantial immediate threat and hazard to public health and safety unless immediately addressed and managed; and

WHEREAS, there is an imminent and proximate threat of contagious, infectious or communicable disease, chemical agent and/or non-communicable biologic agent, and/or other toxins, due to accumulations of perishable foods and other organic materials that normally require refrigeration but have been left to spoil due to electricity disruption, and also due to potential contamination or destruction of residential and commercial water supply in the burned areas; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances of the accumulation of this hazardous waste, contaminated debris, perishable items and potential contamination or destruction of water supplies and the need to immediately remove hazardous waste and debris and abate the above referenced conditions are, or are likely to be, beyond the control, capacity, and resources of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of Placer County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby ratifies the declaration of a local health emergency due to the significant, ongoing, and possible undiscovered impacts due to the River Fire in Placer County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Placer County Board of Supervisors shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every month and shall terminate the local health emergency as soon as local conditions warrant.

BE IT PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the Director of Emergency Services or his designee shall immediately forward a copy of this resolution to the Director of the California Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and any other state agencies who may be requested or required to provide services with regard to this local health emergency in order to protect the public health and safety.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors for the County of Placer, State of California at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors on August 31, 2021 by the vote listed above.