

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

**In the matter of: A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING  
THE PROCLAMATION 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.: 2022-049

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held March 22, 2022, by the following vote:

Ayes: GORE, WEYGANDT, HOLMES, JONES, GUSTAFSON

Noes: NONE

Absent: NONE

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of said Board

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**WHEREAS**, California Health & Safety Code sections 101075, *et seq.*, authorize the declaration of a local health emergency by the Public Health Officer 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**, on August 31, 2021, the Placer County Board of Supervisors ratified the proclamation of a local emergency; 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 reaffirms 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 health emergency at least every thirty (30) days and shall terminate the local health emergency as soon as local conditions warrant.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this local health emergency and authority derived therefrom is limited to the River Fire incident and the potential health threats articulated herein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** 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 regarding this local health emergency 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 March 22, 2022, by the vote listed above.