

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COUNTY OF PLUMAS**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**COUNTY OF PLUMAS**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION 2014-8005**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8630 of the California Government Code empowers the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County Director of Emergency Services and the Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas do hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons, property and public infrastructure have arisen affecting the communities of the County, the National Forest system lands within the County, and the private timber and agricultural lands within the County caused by the uncontrolled build-up of natural fire fuels, posing a severe and ongoing threat of catastrophic wildfire in the County and in California; and,

**WHEREAS**, the management of lands, particularly regarding fire protection and fuel reduction, on National Forest system lands under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service is wholly inadequate, has long-been ignored, and is significantly under funded, placing Plumas County in significant peril and at great risk in the event that catastrophic wildfires occur in thereby destroying public resources, private property, businesses, and the natural environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the irretrievable loss of productive forest lands for generations evidenced by the loss of goods and services originating from the public lands impacted by catastrophic wildfire; the insurance losses from catastrophic wildfires; the loss of valuable natural resources; the damage and/or loss of

public and private property; the long-term devastation to local economies; the long-term negative impacts on the livelihood of local residents; and, the significant expenditure of public funding resulting from fire suppression efforts as well as infrastructure and resource restoration has risen to a critical point that demands an effective response and cooperative strategy among all levels of government to identify, plan, fund, and implement an effective public land fire protection strategy plan which includes planning, assessments, fuels reduction, and enhanced fire suppression and emergency response; and,

**WHEREAS**, these potential conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of Plumas County and the Federal and State agencies having fire suppression jurisdiction within the County and immediate region and the physical and fiscal impacts to the County of Plumas will be severe including but not limited to public utilities, public services, protection of property, emergency medical response, public schools, transportation, and the direct and indirect threats to business, lives, and property; and,

**WHEREAS**, the threat of wild land fire continues to be the highest priority assigned under the Plumas County Hazard Mitigation Plan, reviewed and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on June 18, 2014 and adopted by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors on August 19, 2014, and this proclamation is made at a time when fuel conditions are extreme and all evidence clearly suggests that Plumas County is in peril and the County, including the "Sierra Nevada region" has never been more at risk with no relief in progress; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plumas Communities Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), updated in 2013, and the 2005 Plumas County Hazardous Fuel Assessment and Strategy both call attention to the urgent and growing problem of hazardous fuels buildup within local forests and surrounding local communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of California declared a drought emergency for the entire State on January 17, 2014, and this declaration was based on the actual occurrence of the driest year on record in California at the time of the declaration, and while water-related actions have been initiated, no measurable strategy for long term and sustainable wild land fire-severity reduction appears imminent within Plumas County and within the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada as defined by the official boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, a California State Agency, (which includes Plumas County and twenty one (21) other California counties) and hereinafter referred to as "Sierra Nevada region" and there exists no complementary action by Federal agencies to assess and react to the severity and perilous conditions facing the "Sierra Nevada region" related to catastrophic wildfire so therefore this proclamation implements a condition above and well

beyond the scope of the January 17, 2014 State drought-declaration of emergency; and,

**WHEREAS**, during the existence of a local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Plumas County Office of Emergency Services shall be those prescribed by State law (e.g., Government Code 8630), and Plumas County ordinances (e.g., Chapter 1 of Title 4 of Plumas County Code) and the County Director of Emergency Services shall proceed with formal notification to the State Office of Emergency Services, State legislative representatives, and the Governor of California with a request that he proclaim the County of Plumas to be in a state of emergency.

**THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PLUMAS HEREBY PROCLAIMS AND DECLARES** a local state of emergency based upon the foregoing findings as there exists, extreme conditions of peril to the safety of persons, private property, National Forest system lands, valuable watersheds, and public infrastructure within the County of Plumas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the individual counties comprising the "Sierra Nevada region" as defined herein being situated within the boundary of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy are urged to evaluate the risk and peril experienced within each individual county and determine if such a proclamation of local emergency is warranted and appropriate.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor of California is requested to confirm a state of emergency and seek a Presidential concurrence regarding the existing conditions in Plumas County and the "Sierra Nevada region", providing the highest possible priority and recognition of the extreme peril being encountered by providing a comprehensive and coordinated strategy directed by the Federal government, in cooperation with State and local government, which emulates the former and successful "Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum" for the deteriorating natural conditions impacting the Lake Tahoe region and conducted in 1997, providing a plan, tasking agencies with specific direction, providing long-term funding, establishing a streamlined process for project delivery directed towards a long-term and sustainable reduction of fire hazard and fuel loading to protect public and private resources as well as the lives and property of Plumas County citizens and the public.

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas on the 16th day of September 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS THRALL, GOSS, SIMPSON, SWOFFORD, KENNEDY

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

COUNTY OF PLUMAS

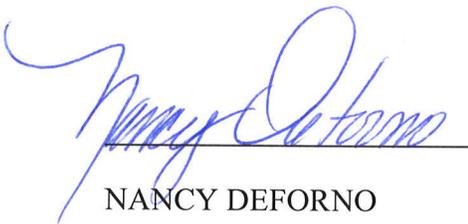


JON KENNEDY

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

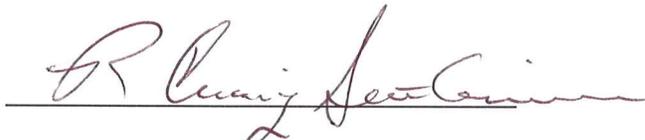
ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



NANCY DEFORNO

CLERK OF THE BOARD



CRAIG SETTLEMIARE

COUNTY COUNSEL