

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 1162

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PLUMAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
AMENDING CHAPTER 9 TO TITLE 4 OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY CODE CONCERNING
RECOVERY FROM THE BECKWOURTH COMPLEX AND DIXIE FIRES**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas, State of California, ORDAINS as follows:

The Debris Removal Urgency Ordinance was first adopted as a stand-alone ordinance by the Board of Supervisors by Ordinance No. 21-1136. Ordinance No. 21-1136 was then amended and codified under Ordinance No. 21-1139 adding Chapter 9 to Title 4 to the Plumas County Code. The Emergency Interim Housing Urgency Ordinance was first adopted as a stand-alone ordinance by the Board of Supervisors by Ordinance No. 21-1138. Ordinance No. 21-1138 was then amended by Ordinance No. 21-1140, and Ordinance No. 21-1140 was then amended by Ordinance No. 22-1146. Ordinance No. 2024-1158 then amended Chapter 9 to Title 4 and codified sections of the Emergency Interim Housing Urgency Ordinance No. 22-1146 adding Articles 5 and 6 and amending Article 1 and further amending Articles 1 and 2 pertaining to debris removal activities. This Ordinance amends Ordinance No. 2024-1158 to extend the “Effective Period,” or date until which Chapter 9 to Title 4 will remain in effect.

SECTION 1. Ordinance Amendments

Title 4 Public Safety of the Plumas County Code is amended with the section reference set forth in the Draft Ordinance, as attached in Exhibit “A.”

Chapter 9 Beckwourth Complex and Dixie Fires Recovery, Article 1. Findings and Title:
Sec. 4-9.01. Emergency Findings and Declarations

SECTION 2. Effective Date

This Ordinance is adopted and shall take effect immediately upon its approval by at least a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors pursuant to California Government Code Section 25123(d) (immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, which shall contain a declaration of the facts constituting the urgency, and shall be passed by a four-fifths vote of the board of supervisors), Section 25216 (restatement of paragraphs in Article 1 in the interest of clarity), and Section 25131 (urgency ordinance may be passed immediately).

SECTION 3. Codification

This Ordinance shall be codified as set forth in the Final Ordinance, as attached in Exhibit “B.”

SECTION 4. CEQA Environmental

Adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(3) regarding projects to maintain, repair, restore, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a declared disaster and Section 21080(b)(4) regarding actions to mitigate or prevent an emergency, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) regarding maintaining, repairing, restoring, demolishing, or replacing property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the California Government Code.

SECTION 5. Publication

A summary of this ordinance shall be posted in a prominent location, pursuant to Section 25124(a) of the Government Code of the State of California, before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after the passage of the ordinance, once, with the names of the supervisors voting for and against the ordinance, at the board of supervisors' chambers and shall remain posted thereafter for at least one (1) week.

The foregoing ordinance was **PASSED AND ADOPTED** on the 23rd day of December 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors: Hall, Goss, Engel, Ceresola, McGowan

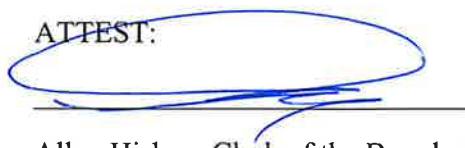
NOES: Supervisors:

ABSENT: Supervisors:



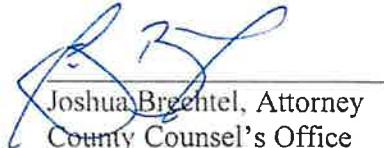
Kevin Goss, Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Allen Hiskey, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Approved as to form:



Joshua Brechtel, Attorney
County Counsel's Office

**DRAFT ORDINANCE
“EXHIBIT A”
PLUMAS COUNTY CODE
TITLE 4 PUBLIC SAFETY**

CHAPTER 9. - BECKWOURTH COMPLEX AND DIXIE FIRES RECOVERY

ARTICLE 1. FINDINGS AND TITLE

Section 4-9.01. - Emergency Findings and Declarations.

This Urgency Ordinance is adopted pursuant to California Government Code Sections 25123(d) and 25131 and shall take effect immediately upon its approval (“Effective Date”) by at least a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors and shall remain in effect until ~~June 30, 2026~~~~December 31, 2025~~ (“Effective Period”), unless otherwise specified herein, subject to extension or modification by the Board of Supervisors. The Board, in consultation with the Local Health Officer, finds that this Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, based upon the following facts:

- A. On June 30, 2021 and July 2, 2021, lightning strikes sparked the Beckwourth Complex Fire, previously the Dotta and Sugar Fires, in Plumas County. Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Plumas were caused by wildfire known as the Beckwourth Complex Fire on the 8th day of July, 2021, at which time the Board of Supervisors was not in session.
- B. On July 13, 2021, the Dixie Fire was started, and on July 22, 2021, the Fly Fire was started. The cause of both fires is still under investigation. On July 26, 2021, the two fires merged and became known as the Dixie Fire. (As the fires have merged, references to the Dixie Fire refer to both the Dixie and Fly Fires.) Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Plumas were caused by wildfire known as the Dixie Fire on the 19th day of July, 2021, and by the Fly Fire on the 23rd day of July, 2021, at which times the Board of Supervisors was not in session.
- C. California Government Code Section 8630 empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the county is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors at the earliest practicable time.
- D. On July 8, 2021, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Plumas proclaimed the existence of a local emergency within the County due to the Beckwourth Complex Fire. The Plumas County Board of Supervisors ratified the emergency proclamation for the Beckwourth Complex on July 13, 2021, in Resolution 21-8601.
- E. On July 19, 2021, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Plumas proclaimed the existence of a local emergency within the County due to the Dixie Fire. On July 23, 2021, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Plumas proclaimed the existence of a local emergency within the County due to the Fly Fire. The Plumas County Board of Supervisors ratified the emergency proclamation of the Dixie Fire on July 20, 2021 in Resolution 21-8605, and the emergency proclamation of the Fly Fire on July 23,

2021, in Resolution 21-8608. The resolutions also requested that the State of California waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts, as well as make available assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other state funding, and that the Federal Government expedite access to federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief program.

- F. On July 16, 2021, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency for multiple fires caused by lightning strike, including the Beckwourth Complex Fire pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.
- G. On July 23, 2021, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency for the Dixie and Fly Fires pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.
- H. On July 26, 2021, Dr. Mark Satterfield, the County of Plumas's Local Health Officer, issued a Declaration of Health Emergency pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101080. Dr. Satterfield's declaration stated that the Beckwourth Complex Fire, Dixie Fire and Fly Fire have created certain hazardous waste conditions in Plumas County in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste/materials and structural debris resulting from the destruction of residences and structure; and the hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless immediately addressed and managed; and there is an imminent and proximate threat of infections or communicable disease and/or non-communicable agents due to fire related debris; and that a local health emergency exists in the County of Plumas, due to hazardous waste in the form of contaminated debris from the hazardous waste/material and structural debris from the ongoing Beckwourth Complex Fire, Dixie Fire and Fly Fire.
- I. As of August 22, 2021, the Beckwourth Complex Fire has consumed over 105,670 acres, destroyed 62 structures, and resulted in evacuation orders affecting 454 persons. As of August 13, 2021, 1,109 structures in Plumas County had been destroyed by the Dixie Fire, including 584 residential structures (3% residential structures), 131 commercial (15% commercial structures) and 394 other structures., with an additional 72 structures were damaged, As of August 20, 2021, the Dixie Fire has consumed over 700,630, acres, and resulted in evacuation orders or warnings which impacted over 2,600 Plumas residents. As a result, the Beckwourth Complex and Dixie Fires have created an enormous amount of debris, and injured three firefighters. The Dixie Fire is still burning through the County and despite firefighters' best efforts, the wildfire has not been contained. Evacuation orders are currently in place and numerous severe public health and safety hazards are present in both the Beckwourth Complex, and Dixie Fires area, including many blocked roads from fallen power lines, burned trees and vehicles, no available utilities, no available public services and the presence of animal carcasses.
- J. There exists the potential for widespread toxic exposures and threats to public health and the environment in the aftermath of a major wildfire disaster, and debris and ash from residential and commercial structure fires contain hazardous materials and the harmful health effects of hazardous materials produced by a wildfire are well-documented.
- K. The combustion of building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, and insulation results in

dangerous ash that may contain asbestos, heavy metals and other hazardous materials. Household hazardous waste such as paint, gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, compressed gas cylinders, and chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned in the fire, also producing hazardous materials.

- L. Exposure to hazardous materials may lead to acute and chronic health effects and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts. Uncontrolled hazardous materials and debris pose significant threats to public health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water supplies. Improper handling can expose residents and workers to toxic materials, and improper transport and disposal of fire debris can spread hazardous substances throughout the community.
- M. Standards and removal procedures are needed immediately to protect the public safety, health and environment, and to facilitate coordinated and effective mitigation of the risks to the public health and environment from the health hazards generated by the Beckwourth Complex and Dixie Fires disaster.
- N. The Dixie Fire and Beckwourth Complex have created hazardous waste conditions in the County of Plumas in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste/materials and structural debris resulting from the destruction of hundreds of structures. This hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment until the property is certified clean. The accumulated exposure to hazardous waste debris over an extended period of time poses a severe hazard to human health.
- O. At this time, Plumas County has requested the state's assistance to participate in the State's Consolidated Debris Removal Program for both the Dixie Fire and the Beckwourth Complex. References to "Beckwourth Complex and Dixie Fires" are intended to refer to the fires that Cal OES agrees to include in the government program.
- P. The Department of Toxic Substances Control has issued reports regarding the assessment of burn debris from wildfires in the past. The studies of burned residential homes and structures from large scale wildland fires indicated that the resulting ash and debris can contain asbestos and toxic concentrated amounts of heavy metals such as antimony, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and zinc. Additionally, the ash and debris may contain higher concentrations of lead if the home was built prior to 1978 when lead was banned from household paint in the United States. The reports indicated that the residual ash of burned residential homes and structures has high concentrations of heavy metals that can be toxic and can have significant impacts to individual properties, local communities, and watersheds if the ash and debris is not removed safely and promptly.
- Q. Adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(3) regarding projects to maintain, repair, restore, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a declared disaster and Section 21080(b)(4) regarding actions to mitigate or prevent an emergency, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) regarding maintaining, repairing, restoring, demolishing, or replacing property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the California Government Code.

R. It is essential that this Urgency Ordinance become immediately effective to mitigate the continued harm that could be caused to the public health and safety and to the environment from the improper disturbance, removal and/or disposal of debris containing hazardous materials, and to facilitate emergency interim housing and the orderly response to the Beckwourth Complex and Dixie Fires disaster.

**FINAL ORDINANCE
“EXHIBIT B”
PLUMAS COUNTY CODE
TITLE 4 PUBLIC SAFETY**

CHAPTER 9. - BECKWOURTH COMPLEX AND DIXIE FIRES RECOVERY

ARTICLE 1. FINDINGS AND TITLE

Section 4-9.01. - Emergency Findings and Declarations.

This Urgency Ordinance is adopted pursuant to California Government Code Sections 25123(d) and 25131 and shall take effect immediately upon its approval (“Effective Date”) by at least a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2026 (“Effective Period”), unless otherwise specified herein, subject to extension or modification by the Board of Supervisors. The Board, in consultation with the Local Health Officer, finds that this Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, based upon the following facts:

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- P. The Department of Toxic Substances Control has issued reports regarding the assessment of burn debris from wildfires in the past. The studies of burned residential homes and structures from large scale wildland fires indicated that the resulting ash and debris can contain asbestos and toxic concentrated amounts of heavy metals such as antimony, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and zinc. Additionally, the ash and debris may contain higher concentrations of lead if the home was built prior to 1978 when lead was banned from household paint in the United States. The reports indicated that the residual ash of burned residential homes and structures has high concentrations of heavy metals that can be toxic and can have significant impacts to individual properties, local communities, and watersheds if the ash and debris is not removed safely and promptly.
- Q. Adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(3) regarding projects to maintain, repair, restore, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a declared disaster and Section 21080(b)(4) regarding actions to mitigate or prevent an emergency, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) regarding maintaining, repairing, restoring, demolishing, or replacing property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the California Government Code.

R. It is essential that this Urgency Ordinance become immediately effective to mitigate the continued harm that could be caused to the public health and safety and to the environment from the improper disturbance, removal and/or disposal of debris containing hazardous materials, and to facilitate emergency interim housing and the orderly response to the Beckwourth Complex and Dixie Fires disaster.

COUNTY OF PLUMAS
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: **Office of Planning & Research**
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814
<https://ceqanet opr.ca.gov/>
 County Clerk
County of Plumas

FROM: **Plumas County**
Board of Supervisors
520 Main Street, Room 309
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-6170
Allen Hiskey, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Project Title: An Urgency Ordinance Amending Chapter 9 to Title 4 of the Plumas County Code

Project Applicant: County of Plumas

Project Location: Unincorporated Area of Plumas County

Description of Project: An Urgency Ordinance pursuant to California Government Code Sections 25123(d), 25216, and 25131 of the County of Plumas, State of California, amending Plumas County Code Title 4 Public Safety, Chapter 9 Beckwourth Complex and Dixie Fires Recovery, Article 1. Findings and Title, Sec. 4-9.01. Emergency Findings and Declarations to extend the "Effective Period," or date (June 30, 2026) until which Chapter 9 to Title 4 will remain in effect.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Plumas

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Plumas County

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemptions. State Code Number: 15269(a)
 California Public Resources Code: Section 21080(b)(3)

Reason why project is exempt: This Urgency Ordinance has been determined to exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(3) regarding projects to maintain, repair, restore, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a declared disaster and Section 21080(b)(4) regarding actions to mitigate or prevent an emergency, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) regarding maintaining, repairing, restoring, demolishing, or replacing property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the California Government Code.

Date _____ Kevin Goss, Chair of the Board of Supervisors

Date Filed _____ Marcy DeMartile, Plumas County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar

Certificate of Posting

I hereby certify that from _____ to _____ (30 days), I posted a copy of this Notice of Exemption in the Office of the Plumas County Clerk-Recorder.

By _____ Date: _____
MARCY DEMARTILE, Plumas County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar