

RESOLUTION NO. 20- 8520

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER DUE TO HAZARDOUS WASTE, TOXIC AND CONTAMINATED DEBRIS FROM THE NORTH COMPLEX FIRE

WHEREAS, Section 4-1.09(b) of the Plumas County Code empowers County Health Officer to proclaim a local emergency if he or she finds conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons within Plumas County and the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2020, the County Health Officer proclaimed a local health emergency due to hazardous waste, toxic and contaminated debris from the North Complex Fire; and

WHEREAS, these conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of said County of Plumas; and


WHEREAS, Section 4-1.09 of the Plumas County Code requires the Board of Supervisors to ratify the emergency proclamation within seven (7) days or the proclamation will no longer be in force,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plumas County Board of Supervisors hereby ratifies the declaration of a local health emergency due to hazardous waste, toxic and contaminated debris from the North Complex Fire.

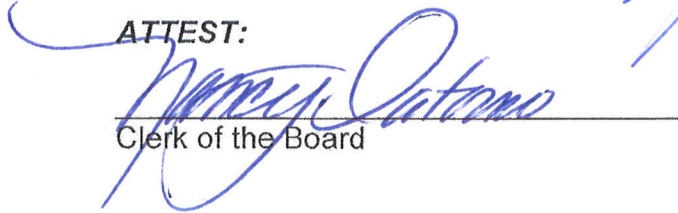
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, except as provided in the Governor's "Proclamation of State of Emergency" dated March 4, 2020, the Plumas County Board of Supervisors shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every month and shall terminate the emergency as soon as local conditions warrant.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas, State of California at a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors on September 28, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS SIMPSON, THRALL, ENGEL, GOSS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE


Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN COUNTY OF PLUMAS

BY PLUMAS COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

NORTH COMPLEX FIRE

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2020, the existence of multiple fires, now referred to as the North Complex Fire, caused conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property to multiple communities throughout Plumas County; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency in connection with extreme weather conditions and fires caused by lightning strikes; and

WHEREAS, the Plumas County Sheriff Proclaimed a Local Emergency related to the significant impacts of these fires on August 20, 2020, and this Proclamation was subsequently ratified by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors at a special meeting held on August 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2020, President Trump approved a disaster declaration for the State of California relating to the wildfires; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020, strong winds and extreme fire conditions pushed the North Complex Fire southwesterly into Butte County with unprecedented fire spread and destruction; and

WHEREAS, as of September 10, 2020, the North Complex Fire had destroyed an estimated 2,000 structures within Plumas and Butte Counties and continues to actively burn with extreme fire behavior, and as a result created an enormous amount of debris;

WHEREAS, the debris resulting from the North Complex Fire contains hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures, which has created a health emergency and poses a substantial present and potential hazard to human health and safety and to the environment unless it is addressed and managed; and

WHEREAS, there is an imminent and proximate threat of exposure to partially respirable-size particulate matter, possible infection or communicable disease exposure to biologic agents due to combustion of animal carcasses, possible accumulation of perishable foods and other organic materials that normally require refrigeration but have been left to spoil due to lack of electricity, and potential pollution of nearby surface water; and

WHEREAS, the approaching rainy season threatens to spread the hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures and could thereby pollute and contaminate surface water and the domestic water supplies of the affected areas of Plumas and Butte Counties; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2020 it was finally safe for responders from the Plumas County Office of Emergency Services, Plumas County Sheriff's Office and Plumas County Environmental Health Department to access areas burned by the North Complex Fire and confirm and document these hazards; and

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code section 101075 confers upon the local Health Officer emergency powers necessary to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code section 101080 authorizes the local Health Officer to declare the existence of a local health emergency when this County or any area of the county is affected or likely to be affected by a public health threat while the Board of Supervisors is not in session, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days, and subject to reaffirmation every thirty (30) days thereafter until such local health emergency has ceased; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer hereby finds that:

- (a) The North Complex Fire has 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 approximately two dozen structures; and
- (b) The hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless immediately addressed and managed; and
- (c) There is an imminent and proximate threat of infections or communicable disease and/or non-communicable agents due to fire related debris; and
- (d) The Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session; and
- (e) These threats to public health necessitate the declaration of a local health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DECLARED that a local health emergency exists in the County of Plumas, due to hazardous waste in the form of contaminated debris from hazardous waste/materials and structural debris from the ongoing North Complex Fire; and

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that during the existence of the local health emergency the powers, functions and duties of the Health Officer shall be those prescribed by State law, including the provisions of California Health and Safety Code sections 101040 and 101085; and by ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the County of Plumas to mitigate the effects of the local emergency.

SIGNED AND SUBSCRIBED on September 24, 2020.



Mark Satterfield, MD
Plumas County Health Officer