

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, Lake County Code Chapter 6 designates the County of Lake as the Operational Area for emergency management and vests the Board of Supervisors with the authority to proclaim the existence of a local emergency and to exercise the powers necessary to carry out emergency operations, and;

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8630(a) authorizes the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the Board is in session, and;

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2026, a failure of a 16-inch wastewater force main serving the City of Clearlake resulted in the uncontrolled release of untreated sewage into surrounding neighborhoods, drainage systems, waterways, Burns Valley Creek, and Clear Lake, and;

WHEREAS, the damaged sewer infrastructure is owned and operated by the Lake County Sanitation District and serves the City of Clearlake and surrounding areas, and;

WHEREAS, the release has impacted residential properties, many of which rely on private domestic wells, and has affected stormwater infrastructure, roadways, surface waters, and the Clear Lake watershed, with ongoing risks to public health, environmental quality, and water resources, and;

WHEREAS, the full scope and duration of the impacts remain uncertain due to continuing system failures and the inability to fully isolate the damaged pipeline, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Clearlake, acting through its Director of Emergency Services, has proclaimed a local emergency due to the conditions created by this incident, and;

WHEREAS, response and recovery from this event exceed the capabilities of the City alone and require coordinated assistance from the County, special districts, state agencies, and mutual aid partners through the Lake County Operational Area, and;

WHEREAS, the Lake County Emergency Operations Plan and the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) provide the framework for unified, multi-jurisdictional coordination, resource mobilization, public health protection, and emergency contracting during such events, and:

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the County of Lake to activate its emergency authorities to support the City of Clearlake, coordinate Operational Area response, protect public health and the environment, and facilitate access to state and federal assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake hereby proclaims the existence of a local emergency within the County of Lake pursuant to Lake County Code Chapter 6 and California Government Code section 8630(a), arising from the January 11, 2026 Robin Lane sewer system failure and its impacts to the City of Clearlake and the Clear Lake watershed.

This proclamation is issued to enable coordinated Operational Area response, inter-agency support, emergency contracting, and environmental protection actions, and eligibility for state and federal disaster assistance in support of the City of Clearlake and affected residents, and;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, during the existence of this local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of the County of Lake shall be those prescribed by state law and by the ordinances, resolutions, plans, and orders of the County.

AND, IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that said local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

This Resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake, State of California, at a regular meeting thereof on this 13th day of January, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT or NOT VOTING:

CHAIR, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST: Susan Parker
Clerk of the Board

County Counsel