

PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

BY THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, the California Health and Safety Code, Division 101, Part 3, Chapter 2 commencing with Section 101075 confers upon Local Health Officers of the political subdivision of this state emergency powers necessary to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code provides that the local health officer may declare a local emergency in the jurisdiction or any area thereof affected by the threat to the public health; and

WHEREAS, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code empowers the Local Health Officer to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local health emergency when the Local Health Officer reasonably determines that the waste is a hazardous waste or medical waste, or that it may become a hazardous waste or medical, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven days and reaffirmation every fourteen days thereafter until such health emergency is terminated; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of Lake County finds that the wildfire (known as the LNU Lightning Complex Fire) that started in Napa County on August 18, 2020, and spread to neighboring four counties which includes Lake County in following days. The total acreage burned across five counties to date is 375,209 acres. In Lake County nine (9) structures have been destroyed and to date, a total of 85,000 acres in Lake County have been lost or destroyed. Concurrent fire events have created an imminent threat to public health in Lake County in the form of severely compromised air quality, potential risk to drinking water supply, and potential for contaminated debris from household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris resulting from the potential destruction of structures.; and

WHEREAS, areas of the county have been evacuated due to fire threat, areas that remain closed, barring reentry by residents and the public due to safety concern; and

WHEREAS, fire, smoke, and extreme heat is causing risk to the public's health, especially vulnerable people, who have medical conditions (such as asthma, COPD, cardiac disease), are elderly/frail, and those who are homeless and do not have indoor shelter; and

WHEREAS, the LNU Lightning Complex Fire has led to the decompression of one local hospital, increased the surge in the use of healthcare for the one other small local hospital which has not been evacuated, and significantly increased the need for interfacility transport and continuity of care which provides improved clinical outcomes for patients; and

WHEREAS, hazardous air quality from smoke, disruption of serpentine soils, and the existence of old and abandoned mercury mines create exposure to harmful toxins and particulates;

WHEREAS, this hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless its removal and disposal is performed in a manner that will protect the public health and safety;

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency existed in Lake County; and on August 23, 2020, President Trump approved a disaster declaration in California including the LNU Lightning Complex Fire which included the COUNTY OF LAKE;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Local Health Officer shall be those prescribed by state law, including the provisions of Section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, and by any ordinances and resolutions of the County approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Dated:

2