

RESOLUTION NO. 21-8609

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PLUMAS COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER'S  
DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

BECKWOURTH COMPLEX FIRE, DIXIE FIRE AND FLY FIRE

**WHEREAS**, Health and Safety Code section 101080 authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the jurisdiction, or any part thereof: when the local health officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction into the jurisdiction, or any part, thereof of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, non-communicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent; and,

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 2021, Plumas County's Health Officer, Mark Satterfield, MD, declared a local health emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health due to hazardous waste in the form of contaminated debris from hazardous waste/materials and structural debris from the Beckwourth Complex Fire, the Dixie Fire and the Fly Fire (which has now merged with the Dixie Fire), such declaration being attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

**WHEREAS**, under Health and Safety Code section 101080, a local health officer's declaration of a local health emergency must be ratified by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days in order to remain in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, Health and Safety Code section 101080 generally requires the Board of Supervisors to review the need for continuing the local health emergency at least every 30 days until the local health emergency is terminated; and

**WHEREAS**, Health and Safety Code section 101080 requires local jurisdictions to terminate the emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant termination; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Plumas County Board of Supervisors hereby, and pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080, ratifies the declaration of a local health emergency declared by the local health officer on July 23, 2021.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors for the County of Plumas, State of California at the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors on July 27, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor (S) Ceresola, Goss, Thrall, Hagwood, and Engel

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**DECLARATION NO. 21-**

**DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE COUNTY OF PLUMAS  
BY PLUMAS COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER  
FOR THE BECKWOURTH COMPLEX AND DIXIE AND FLY FIRES**

**WHEREAS**, The Beckwourth Complex is comprised of the Dotta Fire and the Sugar Fire on the Beckwourth Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest. The Dotta Fire is thought to have been ignited by lightning on June 30, 2021 near Dotta Canyon, and on July 2, 2021, the Sugar Fire is thought to have been ignited by lightning west of Sugarloaf Peak; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plumas National Forest failed to control the fires and on July 4, 2021, the California Incident Management Team 4 (CAIIMT4) took over command and control of the fires and combined them to be called the Beckwourth Complex Fire; and

**WHEREAS**, Plumas County Proclaimed a Local State of Emergency on July 8, 2021 related to the significant impacts of the Beckwourth Complex Fire; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 13, 2021 the Plumas County Board of Supervisors confirmed and ratified said Proclamation of Local Emergency by Resolution No. 21-8601; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 16, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the Beckwourth Complex Fire because the wildfire had destroyed homes, caused the evacuation of residents, and damaged critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dixie Fire started in the Feather River Canyon near the Cresta Powerhouse on July 13, 2021. The cause of the fire is currently unknown and under investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dixie Fire is over 190,000 with 21% containment and continues to threaten life and property, creating conditions of extreme peril and triggering evacuations of thousands of people; and

**WHEREAS**, Plumas County Proclaimed a Local State of Emergency on July 16, 2021 related to the significant impacts of the Dixie Fire; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 20, 2021 the Plumas County Board of Supervisors confirmed and ratified said Proclamation of Local Emergency by Resolution No. 21-8605; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fly Fire started in the Butterfly Valley area on July 22, 2021. The cause of the Fire is currently unknown and is under investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fly Fire was 4,300 acres as of July 24, 2021 with 5% containment and has threatened life and property, creating conditions of extreme peril and triggering evacuations of thousands of people. The Fly Fire merged with the Dixie Fire on the night of July 24, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 23, 2021 Plumas County Proclaimed a Local State of Emergency related to the significant impacts of the Fly Fire; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 23, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the Dixie and Fly Fires because the fires have destroyed homes, caused evacuation of residents, and damaged critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 26, 2021, the Beckwourth Complex Fire has destroyed 16 structures in Plumas County and as a result the wildfire has created an enormous amount of debris; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 26, 2021, the Dixie Fire has destroyed 16 structures and 6 other minor structures in Plumas County and as a result the wildfire has created an enormous amount of debris; and

**WHEREAS**, the debris resulting from the Beckwourth Complex Fire, and the Dixie and Fly Fires contain hazardous material in the ash of burned structures, which has created a health emergency and poses a substantial present and future hazard to human health and safety and 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 biological 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, potential contamination or destruction of residential and commercial drinking water supplies, and potential pollution of nearby surface water; and

**WHEREAS**, the seasonal thunderstorms and inclement weather could spread the hazardous material in the ash of the burned structure and could thereby pollute and contaminate surface water and the domestic water supplies of the affected areas of Plumas County; 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 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
- (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

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 the hazardous waste/material and structural debris from the ongoing Beckwourth Complex Fire, Dixie Fire and Fly Fire; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED** that during the existence of the local health emergency the power, 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Plumas County Health Officer, Mark Satterfield, M.D. declares:

A local health emergency is declared in Plumas County commencing on or about 2:04 PM  
a.m./p.m. of the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

7/26/21  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Satterfield, M.D.  
Health Officer  
County of Plumas