

RESOLUTION NO. 21-038

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LASSEN
RATIFYING COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH
EMERGENCY

BECKWOURTH COMPLEX 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 23, 2021, the County's Health Officer, Kenneth Korver, 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, 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, the Board of Supervisors hereby, and pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080, ratifies the local health emergency declared by the local health officer on July 23, 2021.

This resolution was adopted on the 27th day of July 2021, at a regular meeting of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors in Susanville, California by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Albaugh, Gallagher, Bridges and Hemphill.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Supervisor Hammond.

Caren Aldridge
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:
JULIE BUSTAMANTE
Clerk of the Board

BY: Michele Yderraga
Michele Yderraga, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Resolution No. 21-038

I, MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board of the Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the said Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting thereof held on the 27th day of July 2021.

Michele Yderraga
Deputy Clerk of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors



DECLARATION NO. 2021-01

**DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN COUNTY OF LASSEN
BY LASSEN COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
BECKWOURTH COMPLEX**

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, on July 9, 2021, the Beckwourth Complex Fire had burned from the Plumas National Forest into Lassen County where the wildfire threatened life and property, creating conditions of extreme peril and triggering evacuations of hundreds of people; and

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2021, Lassen County Proclaimed a Local State of Emergency related to the significant impacts of the Beckwourth Complex Fire; and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2021, by Resolution No. 21-033 the Lassen County Board of Supervisors confirmed and ratified said Proclamation of Local State of Emergency; 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, as of July 20, 2021, the Beckwourth Complex Fire had destroyed or damaged 62 single family residences in addition to damaging or destroying 37 other structures in Lassen County and as a result the wildfire has created an enormous amount of debris; and

WHEREAS, the debris resulting from the Beckwourth Complex Fire contains hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures, which has created a health emergency and poses a substantial present and future 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 seasonal thunderstorms and inclement weather could 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 Lassen 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 has created certain hazardous waste conditions in Lassen County in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste/materials and structural debris resulting from the destruction of residences and 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 Lassen 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 Lassen, due to hazardous waste in the form of contaminated debris from hazardous waste/materials and structural debris from the ongoing Beckwourth Complex Fire; and

NOW, THEREFORE, 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 Lassen to mitigate the effects of the local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Lassen County Health Officer, Dr. Kenneth Korver declares:

A local health emergency is declared in Lassen County commencing on or about 10:20 a.m./p.m. of the 23 day of July, 2021.

7/23/21
Date

Kenn Korver, MD
KENNETH KORVER, MD
Health Officer
County of Lassen