



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 7, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Monaghan – IGS-Emergency Management

SUBJECT: Resolution Continuing the Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency in Nevada County Due to Hazardous Waste and Debris from the Wind Complex (Lobo and McCourtney) Fires

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: The potential fiscal impact is unknown at this time. The California Disaster Assistance Act and FEMA may fund up to 96 percent of eligible FEMA response and recovery costs.

BACKGROUND: On October 10, 2017, the Board of Supervisors declared a local state of emergency due to the Wind Complex Fires. The Governor issued a State disaster emergency declaration for Nevada County on October 9, 2017. The President issued a federal disaster emergency declaration on October 11, 2017. Nevada County lost 40 structures, including 22 homes, due to the Wind Complex- Lobo and McCourtney fires.

The fires have caused damage and destruction of homes and buildings resulting in ash and debris that could be contaminated with heavy metals, asbestos and household hazardous waste. The ash and debris pose an immediate public health and safety risk of exposure by County residents and local agency employees to the hazardous waste. Based upon the risk, Dr. Ken Cutler, Nevada County Public Health Officer and Amy Irani, Nevada County Director of Environmental Health declared a Local Health Emergency pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 101040 and 101080 on October 13, 2017. On October 17, 2017, by Resolution No. 17-518, the Board of Supervisors ratified this Local Health Emergency proclamation. Health and Safety Code section 101080 requires that the Board of Supervisors review and re-affirm the Local Health Emergency within 7 days for it to remain in effect, and to review and re-affirm the emergency declaration at least every 14 days thereafter until the emergency is terminated.

The County sponsored a Local Assistance Center at the Brighton Greens service center to provide information and make resources available to local residents. Staff also worked closely with the Department of Toxic Substances and Control (“DTSC”) to conduct inspections and assessments within burned areas to help expedite the proper clean up and disposal of hazardous debris and to support those residents in their clean up and rebuilding efforts. Staff continues to anticipate that the hazardous debris removal process will take approximately four to six weeks.

Staff recommends that the County's Local Health Emergency Declaration be continued for at least another fourteen (14) days while the site assessments and hazardous debris removal work continues. This continued Declaration will allow for the cooperation and assistance from state and local agencies and the Nevada County Environmental Health Department for the proper handling and disposal of the hazardous waste and ongoing surveillance of this local health emergency.

Item Initiated by: John Gulserian
Approved by: Steve Monaghan