

**Ryan Gruver**  
Health and Human Services Agency  
Director

500 CROWN POINT CIRCLE, STE 110  
GRASS VALLEY, CA  
95945

TELEPHONE (530) 265-

**Nevada County**  
**Health and Human**  
**Services Agency**

*Public Health Department*

**Jill Blake, MPA**  
Public Health Director  
**Sherilynn Cooke, MD**  
Public Health Officer

10075 LEVON AVE, STE 202  
TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA 96161  
TELEPHONE (530) 582-7814

## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** July 12, 2022

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Jill Blake, Public Health Director**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution ratifying Local Health Emergency Proclamation by the Nevada County Deputy Public Health Officer due to the immediate public health threat caused by hazardous waste and debris from the Rices Fire.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the proposed resolution to ratify the Local Health Emergency Proclamation by the Nevada County Deputy Public Health Officer due to the Rices Fire.

**FUNDING:** The potential fiscal impact is unknown at this time.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the afternoon of June 28, 2022, a wildfire commenced near Rices Crossing Road and Cranston Road, south of Dobbins in Nevada County, referred to as the "Rices Fire". The Rices Fire has caused mandatory and voluntary evacuations and the destruction of several homes and structures and has consumed over 900 acres, necessitating a unified command response by Cal FIRE and the Nevada County Consolidated Fire Protection District.

On July 7, 2022, the Nevada County Public Health Officer proclaimed the existence of a Local Health Emergency within the areas burned by the Rices Fire due to hazardous waste in the form of debris and debris ash from fire and the potential contamination of residential food and water supplies, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Health and Safety Code section 101080 provides that a local health emergency declared by a local health officer must be ratified by the board of supervisors within seven (7) calendar days of the date said local health emergency was

declared. These emergency conditions continue to exist thereby necessitating ratification and continuation of the declaration of the Local Health Emergency.

This resolution 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. Further, a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to any state agencies who may be requested or required to provide services with regard to this local health emergency in order to maximize response and remedial efforts to maximize the public's health and safety. Finally, the County will seek out all permissible reimbursement of eligible fire suppression and cleanup costs incurred by the County of Nevada due to the Rices Fire.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:** Jill Blake, Public Health Director