



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: August 10, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Steve Monaghan – IGS – Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution Proclaiming a Local Emergency in Nevada County Due to the River Fire (4/5 Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: The initial response actions will be from the General Fund and will depending on scale be supplemented by the State/Federal Government.

BACKGROUND:

Much of California has been experiencing extreme fire danger caused by severe drought conditions. In the afternoon of August 4, 2021, a wildfire commenced near Milk Ranch Road and Bear River Campground Road, north of Applegate in Placer County, which has since been named the “River Fire.” The fire quickly crossed the Bear River into Nevada County and progressed quickly. Driven by high winds and dangerously dry conditions, the River Fire has burned 2,400 acres as of August 5, 2021 morning briefing. The River Fire has threatened the health, safety, and property of thousands of Nevada County residents living in and around the fire zone and has resulted in mass mandatory and voluntary evacuations and the destruction of homes and structures.

On August 4, 2021, at approximately 3:19 p.m., Nevada County commenced emergency services to respond to the River Fire, including opening its emergency shelters to provide food, shelter, emergency supplies, social services, medical attention, and transportation for evacuees and their animals, as well as other necessary services to address the rapidly changing and emergent circumstances created by the fire. In response to the escalation of the fire activity and corresponding threat to residents of Nevada County, on August 5, 2021, the Assistant Director of Emergency Services for the County of Nevada proclaimed the existence of a local emergency.

The Governor secured Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to bolster the state’s response to fire burning in Nevada and Placer counties.

The conditions created by the River Fire, and the necessary emergency response services and activities to address the resulting impacts, are likely to continue and

remain beyond the control, capacity, and resources of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of Nevada County, thereby constituting the existence of a local emergency and emergency situation as set forth in California Government Code sections 8630.

In furtherance of this local emergency proclamation, it is requested that the Emergency Services Director for the County of Nevada and the Assistant Emergency Services Director be designated as the authorized representative of the County of Nevada for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available State and Federal assistance, and that the powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Emergency Services, or his designee, and the emergency organization of the County, be those prescribed by state law, local ordinance and resolutions of this County approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The additional powers authorized by this proclamation of a local emergency will promote the health and well-being residents impacted by the River Fire through the coordination of local response and relief efforts, the seeking out and utilization of mutual aid, the obtaining of any/all available state and federal funding to assist with the local emergency, and the identification of other available resources deemed necessary to fully address the current and expected continuing impacts caused by the fire. Accordingly, it is requested that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Resolution Proclaiming a Local Emergency in Nevada County due to the River Fire.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Steve Monaghan