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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: August 10, 2021

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 River Fire.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

In the afternoon of August 4, 2021, a wildfire commenced near the Bear River Campground, immediately west of Colfax, referred to as the "River Fire." The River Fire has caused mass mandatory and voluntary evacuations and the destruction of multiple homes and structures and has consumed over 2,400 acres, necessitating a unified command response by Cal FIRE and the Nevada County Consolidated Fire Protection District.

On August 5, 2021, the Assistant Director of Emergency Services for the County of Nevada proclaimed a local emergency due to conditions of extreme peril resulting from the River Fire, and California secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help ensure the availability of vital resources to suppress the River Fire.

On August 6, 2021, the Nevada County Deputy Public Health Officer proclaimed the existence of a Local Health Emergency within the areas burned by the River 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 and local resources continue to be unable to cope with the effects of said local health emergency, thereby necessitating ratification and continuation of the declaration of Local Health Emergency.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080, once a local health emergency is ratified, it must be renewed by a board of supervisors at least once every thirty days until such time the emergency is terminated.

This 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. Further, a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the California Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Toxic Substances Control and any other 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 costs incurred by the County of Nevada through Fire Management Assistance Grants from Federal Emergency Management Agency and any and all other state and federal funding sources.

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