



RESOLUTION No. 21-365

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION RATIFYING A 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

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code sections 101075, et seq, authorize the proclamation of a local health emergency by the Public Health Officer, or their designee, for any area of the County affected by hazardous waste which poses an immediate threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2021, in the afternoon hours, a wildfire commenced near the Bear River Campground, immediately west of Colfax, referred to as the "River Fire;" and

WHEREAS, 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, the Nevada County Consolidated Fire Protection District, Peardale Chicago Park Fire District, and Higgins Fire Protection District; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2021, at approximately 3:00 p.m., Nevada County commenced emergency services 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 River Fire; and

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2021, 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; and

WHEREAS, the River Fire has already caused damage and destruction to multiple homes and structures resulting in the accumulation of ash debris, much of which is contaminated with heavy metals, asbestos, and/or other hazardous waste which create an immediate risk of exposure and threat to public health and safety by County residents and local agency employees; and

WHEREAS, based on this risk, on August 6, 2021, the Nevada County Deputy Public Health Officer proclaimed the existence of a Local Public 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; and