

WHEREAS, the river has fallen and is currently rising again, increasing the exigent need to address household hazardous waste in certain areas where waste is not contained; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 29-17 and 11A-12 of the County Code, exigent circumstances require coordination of State and local responders to prevent imminent releases of household hazardous waste on public and private property; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code section 101075 confers upon the local Health Officer powers necessary to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080, the Health Officer for the County of Sonoma is authorized to proclaim the existence of a local health emergency when this County or any area of the county is affected or likely to be affected such a public health threat while the Board of Supervisors is not in session, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven days, and subject to reaffirmation every 30 days thereafter until such local health emergency is terminated; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer for the County of Sonoma hereby finds that:

(a) The 2019 Winter Storms and Flooding have created certain waste conditions in the County from household hazardous waste/materials resulting from the flooding; and

(b) The household hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless immediately addressed and managed; and

(c) There is an imminent and proximate threat of release of household hazardous waste; and

(d) The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session; and

(e) These threats to public health necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS PROCLAIMED that a local health emergency now exists in the flooded areas of the County due to household hazardous waste that requires proper disposal; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of the local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the County Health Officer shall be those prescribed by State law, including the provisions of Sections 101040 and 101085 of the Health and Safety Code, and by ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the County of Sonoma in order to mitigate the effects of the local emergency.

THIS ORDER MAY BE SIGNED IN COUNTERPARTS.

SIGNED AND SUBSCRIBED at 1:15 pm this 5th day of March, 2019.



Karen Holbrook, MD, MPH
Sonoma County Health Officer