



County of Sonoma
State of California

Date: August 21, 2020

Item Number: 1

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of The Board of Supervisors of The County Of Sonoma, State of California,
Ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency Due to the LNU Lightning Complex Fires**

Whereas, on August 18, 2020, the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Sonoma Issued a Proclamation of a Local Emergency for the County of Sonoma, State of California related to the Austin Creek “13-4” Fire (now named the Walbridge Fire) and the Fort Ross “11-16” Fire (now named the Meyers Fire) which have both been incorporated into the complex of fires known as the LNU Lightning Complex Fires (the “Director’s Proclamation of Local Emergency”); and

Whereas, on August 18, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency exists statewide due to fires burning statewide; and

Whereas, pursuant to Sonoma County Code Chapter 10, Article 1, Section 10-5, where the Director of Emergency Services proclaims a local emergency, the Board of Supervisors must ratify said declaration within seven (7) days after such proclamation; and

Whereas, the conditions of extreme peril caused by these fires are exacerbated by extreme heat and fire danger weather, rolling power outages, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which have significantly impacted County and community operations and resources, and require the provision of additional public safety, health and emergency services; and

Whereas, since the Director's Proclamation of Local Emergency, multiple additional fires have ignited, the most significant of which is informally called the Stewarts Fire, burning south of Lake Sonoma and expected to merge with the northern end of the Walbridge Fire; and

Whereas, as of the morning of August 20, 2020, the Walbridge Fire, west of Healdsburg, has burned over 14,500 acres, threatening lower Russian River communities, Windsor, and Healdsburg. The Stewarts Fire is expected to merge with the northern end of the Walbridge Fire; and

Whereas, as of the morning of August 20, 2020, the Meyers Fire, just north of Jenner along the coast, has burned over 3,000 acres; and

Whereas, the fires have caused widespread wildland destruction and are threatening large swaths of populated areas; and

Whereas, the region is facing continuing extreme weather conditions creating high fire risk in the Sonoma County Operational Area; and

Whereas, the conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property will continue within the County because of the ongoing damages caused by and ongoing threat of the fires, coupled with the threats from fire danger weather and the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, and the situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the affected local governments; and

Whereas, resources regionwide are significantly strained due to the unprecedented number of fires burning in the region and around the state; and

Whereas, as of August 20, 2020, the Walbridge, Meyers, and Stewarts fires are burning out of control with no containment; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors does hereby find that the circumstances of the LNU Lightning Complex Fires and danger of additional fires as described in the Director's Declaration of Local Emergency do constitute a risk of extreme peril and support and justify the declaration of local emergency set forth therein, the request for the Governor of the State of California to proclaim a Stage of Emergency; and the request to make additional assistance available, including but not limited to California Disaster Act Assistance; and

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Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved the Board of Supervisors does hereby ratify the Director's Declaration of Local Emergency, effective immediately upon the adoption of this resolution.

Supervisors:

Rabbitt:	Zane:	Gore:	Hopkins:	Gorin:
Ayes:	Noes:	Absent:	Abstain:	

So Ordered.