

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.7
(ID # 26186)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, October 08, 2024


FROM : EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT: Ratify Proclamation of Local Health Emergency in Riverside County due to the Airport Fire. All Districts. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-223 to ratify the proclamation of Local Health Emergency as declared by the Public Health Officer of Riverside County.

ACTION:


Bruce Barton, EMD Director 10/1/2024

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Gutierrez, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: October 8, 2024
xc: EMD

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

| FINANCIAL DATA | Current Fiscal Year: | Next Fiscal Year: | Total Cost: | Ongoing Cost |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| COST | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| NET COUNTY COST | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A | | | Budget Adjustment: | No |
| | | | For Fiscal Year: | 24/25 |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The Airport Fire has burned 23,526 acres in Orange and Riverside Counties causing the evacuation of 7,500 homes encompassing a population 24,000 County residents in the Communities of De Luz, El Cariso Village, Rancho Capistrano, Lakeland Village, La Cresta, Temescal Valley and the, City of Lake Elsinore; and, conditions of imminent threat of impending emergency or disaster, posing risk of extreme peril, loss of life, safety of persons and property have arisen within the County of Riverside caused by damaging impacts of the Airport Fire.

The potential for widespread toxic exposures and threats to public health and the environment exists in the aftermath of a major wildfire disaster, and debris and ash from structure fires contain hazardous substances that can result in adverse health impacts to the public.

The combustion of building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, and insulation result in dangerous ash and debris that may contain asbestos, heavy metals, and other hazardous substances, and household hazardous substances such as paint, gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, compressed gas cylinders, and chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned or released in the fire, also producing hazardous substances, and disposal of such debris can spread hazardous substances and can lead to acute and chronic health effects and may cause long-term public health issues. Uncontrolled hazardous substances and debris pose current and potential threats to public health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water supplies; and improper handling can expose workers to toxic materials, and improper transport and disposal of fire debris can spread hazardous substances throughout the community.

The Public Health Officer of Riverside County finds that the Airport Fire along with concurrent fire events have created an imminent threat to public health in Riverside County in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris from the destruction of structures.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

It is requested that the Board of Supervisors now adopt Resolution No. 2024-223 to ratify the Proclamation of Local Emergency as declared by the Public Health Officer of Riverside County on the 1st day of October.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

This hazardous waste debris poses a substantial current or potential hazards to human health and the environment unless its collection, removal and disposal is performed in a manner that will protect the public health and safety.

Rebecca S Cortez

Rebecca S Cortez, Principal Management Analyst

10/2/2024

George Trindle

George Trindle, Chief ASST COUNTY COUNSEL

10/2/2024

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3 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-223

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5 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
6 THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE RATIFYING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY
7 FOR AREAS IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE IMPACTED BY THE AIRPORT FIRE
8

9 WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code section 101040 authorizes the local health officer
10 to take any preventative measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve public health from any
11 public hazard during an emergency;

12 WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code section 101080 authorizes a local health officer to declare a
13 local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, affected by hazardous waste
14 which is an imminent threat to the public health;

15 WHEREAS, the Director of the Riverside County Environmental Health Department is a duly
16 authorized deputy local health officer with respect to hazardous waste and materials matters;

17 WHEREAS, the potential for widespread toxic exposures and threats to public health and the
18 environment exists in the aftermath of a major wildfire disaster, and debris and ash from structure fires
19 contain hazardous substances that can result in adverse health impacts to the public;

20 WHEREAS, the Public Health Officer of Riverside County finds that the wildfire (known as the
21 Airport fire) that started in Orange County on September 9, 2024, and moved into Riverside County, and
22 concurrent fire events have created an imminent threat to public health in Riverside County in the form of
23 contaminated debris from household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris from the
24 destruction of structures;

25 IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the proclamation of a Local Health
26 Emergency by the Public Health Officer of the County of Riverside is hereby ratified, and that said Local
27 Health Emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the County
28 Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside.

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: MELISSA R. CUSHMAN
DATE: 10/11/2024

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3 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-223

4 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
5 THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE RATIFYING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY
6 FOR AREAS IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE IMPACTED BY THE AIRPORT FIRE
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8 ROLL CALL:


9
10 Ayes: Jeffries, Washington, Spiegel, Perez, and Gutierrez

11 Nays: None

12 Absent: None
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15 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of
16 Supervisors on the date therein set forth.
17

18 KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

19
20 By:  _____
21 Deputy
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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

JEFF JOHNSON, DIRECTOR

**DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR AREAS IN THE
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE IMPACTED BY THE AIRPORT FIRE**

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code section 101040 authorizes the local health officer to take any preventative measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve public health from any public hazard during an emergency;

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 101080 authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, affected by hazardous waste which is an imminent threat to the public health;

WHEREAS, the Director of the Riverside County Environmental Health Department is a duly authorized deputy local health officer with respect to hazardous waste and materials matters;

WHEREAS, the potential for widespread toxic exposures and threats to public health and the environment exists in the aftermath of a major wildfire disaster, and debris and ash from structure fires contain hazardous substances that can result in adverse health impacts to the public;

WHEREAS, the combustion of building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, and insulation result in dangerous ash and debris that may contain asbestos, heavy metals, and other hazardous substances, and household hazardous substances such as paint, gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, compressed gas cylinders, and chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned or released in the fire, also producing hazardous substances, and disposal of such debris can spread hazardous substances and can lead to acute and chronic health effects and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts; and;

WHEREAS, exposure to hazardous substances may lead to acute and chronic health effects and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts; uncontrolled hazardous substances and debris pose current and potential threats to public health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water supplies; and improper handling can expose workers to toxic materials, and improper transport and disposal of fire debris can spread hazardous substances throughout the community;

WHEREAS, the Public Health Officer of Riverside County finds that the wildfire (known as the Airport fire) that started in Orange County on September 9, 2024, and moved into Riverside County, and concurrent fire events have created an imminent threat to public

health in Riverside County in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris from the destruction of structures;

WHEREAS, the uncontrolled or unmanaged ash and debris can pose current and potential threats to public health through dust particles, runoff and impact the drinking water supplies including water wells;

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2024, the County Executive Officer declared a local state of emergency, subject to ratification of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors;

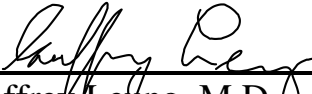
WHEREAS, on September 11, 2024, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency in Riverside County;

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THESE DECLARATIONS, THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER HEREBY FINDS THAT:

1. The Airport Fire that started on September 9, 2024 has created an imminent threat to public health in the County of Riverside in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris from the destruction of structures;
2. This hazardous waste debris poses a substantial current or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless its collection, removal and disposal is performed in a manner that will protect the public health and safety; and
3. That the aforesaid threat to public health necessitates the declaration of the existence of a local health emergency in areas impacted by the Airport Fire in the County of Riverside.


NOW, THEREFORE, the County Health Officer hereby declares a local health emergency in the areas of the County of Riverside impacted by the Airport Fire.

Dated: 10/01/2024



Geoffrey Leung, M.D.
Riverside County Health Officer

Dated: 10/1/2024



Jeff Johnson
Director, Department of Environmental Health
Riverside County