

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF RATIFYING  
DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH  
EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE  
THOMAS FIRE**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

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**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**, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the jurisdiction or areas thereof affected by release or escape of hazardous waste which is an imminent threat to the public health or imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent;

**WHEREAS**, on December 20, 2017 the County of Santa Barbara Health Officer declared a local public health emergency; and

**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 residential 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 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;

**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 significant 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 Health Officer of Santa Barbara County finds that the wildfire (known as the Thomas Fire) that started in Santa Paula on December 4, 2017, and concurrent fire events have created an imminent threat to public health in Santa Barbara County in the form of contaminated debris from

household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris resulting from the damage or destruction of approximately 80 structures;

**WHEREAS**, areas that have been closed to reentry by residents and the public for safety reasons will be opened in the near future;

**WHEREAS**, this hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless its removal and disposal is performed in a manner that will protect the public health and safety;

**WHEREAS**, the California Office of Emergency Services has established a voluntary Fire Debris Clearance Program to ensure the safe removal, transport, and disposal of hazardous fire debris;

**WHEREAS**, property owners that do not participate in the Fire Debris Clearance Program must conduct their private debris removal, transport, and disposal in a manner that does not endanger the community and that complies with all legal requirements;

**WHEREAS**, on December 5, 2017, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency existed in Santa Barbara County;

**WHEREAS**, on December 8, 2017, the President of the United States proclaimed a Declaration of a Presidential Emergency for the Thomas Fire;

**WHEREAS**, on December 8, 2017, the Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services declared a local emergency when the Board of Supervisors was not in session;

**WHEREAS**, on December 12, 2017, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors ratified the local emergency declaration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County Health Officer and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Director have found:

1. That conditions of certain existing debris resulting from the Thomas Fire in the County of Santa Barbara involving destruction of a number of structures pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless properly and immediately managed; and
2. That protection of the County's natural resources and watershed from fire related debris runoff needs to be addressed immediately; and
3. That the aforesaid threat to public health necessitates the declaration.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors finds these conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the ratification of the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency with regards to the Storms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that the declaration of the local health emergency as ordered by the Local Health Officer with regards to the Thomas Fire, is ratified by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that the local health emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, California.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:


ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara**

ATTEST:  
MONA MIYASATO  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

VAN DO-REYNOSO, MPH, PHD  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CHARITY DEAN, MD, MPH  
HEALTH OFFICER

By  \_\_\_\_\_

By  \_\_\_\_\_