

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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 immediate 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 Health Emergency finding that the wildfire (known as Thomas Fire) that started in Santa Paula on December 4, 2017, and concurrent fire events 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 87 structures;

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2017, the Board of Supervisors found an imminent or proximate threat to public health based on the expected presence of toxic materials and hazardous substances contained in the ash and debris from the Thomas Fire necessitated the declaration by the Local Health Officer of a Local Health Emergency;

WHEREAS, the potential exposure to toxic materials and hazardous substances from Thomas Fire debris continues to exist;

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, all areas that were closed to reentry by residents and the public for safety reasons are now open;

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 imminent threat to public health and safety warrant and necessitate the re-ratification of the declaration of the Local Health Emergency with regards to the Thomas Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the conditions warranting the declaration of the Local Health Emergency, as ordered by the Local Health Officer, with regards to the Thomas Fire continue to exist and is re-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 January, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

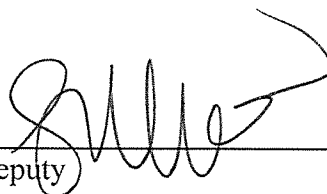
ABSENT:

**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  _____