

PROCLAMATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO WILDFIRE, AND ORDERING MANDATORY EVACUATIONS, PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE §§8550 *et seq.*

WHEREAS, Section 1-15-1030 of the Tulare County Ordinance Code<sup>1</sup> empowers the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Tulare to issue a proclamation declaring the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session, which will have no further force or effect unless ratified by the Board within 7 days, and shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at least every sixty days thereafter and terminated at the earliest practical time, except where different timelines are otherwise lawfully prescribed or allowed; and

WHEREAS, Section 1-15-1005(a) defines “emergency” to include “the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within this County caused by conditions which include, but are not limited to, air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, earthquake, or other conditions provided in Government Code Section 8558(c)(1); and

WHEREAS, Section 1-15-1005(d) states that “disaster” means, but is not limited to, the definition provided in Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations Section 2900 subsection (g) and any other occurrence in the County caused by human or natural events threatening or causing danger to public health and safety of the residents of the County or to property therein; and

WHEREAS, when a local emergency is proclaimed, Section 1-15-1030 empowers the Director of Emergency Services to make and issue orders, rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency, provided

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<sup>1</sup> All references to “Sections” are to the Tulare County Ordinance Code, unless otherwise specifically provided.

that such rules and regulations are confirmed by the Board of Supervisors at the earliest practicable time; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Coffee Pot Fire is a wildfire currently burning within Tulare County, and the Board of Supervisors is not currently in session; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Coffee Pot Fire has already burned over 4,552 acres of land, is posing significant firefighting challenges due to its rugged and remote location, and has the potential to spread rapidly towards structures in the area, including in the community of Three Rivers, due to topography and current weather; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services does hereby find that the 2024 Coffee Pot Fire has created conditions of disaster and/or extreme peril to the health, safety and welfare of persons and property within the County of Tulare, and that such conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and/or facilities of the County of Tulare, and thus have required or may require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of local resources, and the ability to coordinate interagency responses, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, and use mutual aid, will all be critical to successfully responding to this wildfire emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services, or successor, also hereby finds that such conditions of disaster and/or extreme peril created by the 2024 Coffee Pot Fire necessitates the evacuation of all persons from certain zones within Tulare County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Tulare County Director of Emergency Services that a local emergency now exists in the County of Tulare due to the 2024 Coffee Pot Fire, which has created conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons

and property within the County, and that such conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and/or facilities of this County, and thus require or may require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat.

IT IS ORDERED that to protect life and property in the vicinity of said wildfire, an evacuation order, also known as a mandatory evacuation order, is now in effect for the following area(s) due to the 2024 Coffee Pot Fire:

- The area north of South Fork Drive, east of Skyline Drive (Salt Creek, fire control road), south of Skyline Drive (south of Case Mountain and Homers Nose), and west of the Sequoia National Park Boundary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Tulare County Sheriff and any other law enforcement personnel assigned to the 2024 Coffee Pot Fire, be and hereby are authorized to evacuate all persons from the above areas, with reasonable force to be used as needed to enforce this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Tulare County Sheriff shall allow residents of the above areas to reenter the areas to inspect their homes and retrieve their belongings, when conditions are deemed safe to allow such re-entry.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of Tulare County shall be those prescribed by State law, by ordinances and resolutions of Tulare County, and by the Tulare County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors.

IT IS REQUESTED that the Governor of the State of California find and proclaim Tulare County to be in a State of Emergency, and that the State of California provide financial and other

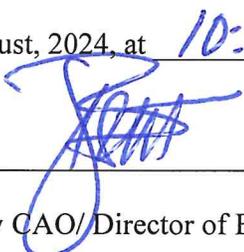
assistance as appropriate to assist the County and other agencies to to respond to said wildfire emergency.

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the State of California (1) waive any regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts, and (2) make available disaster assistance funding pursuant to the California Disaster Assistance Act and/or Fire Management Assistance Grant Program.

This Proclamation and these orders and requests are issued pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, found at Government Code §8550 and following, and Chapter 15 of Part I of the Tulare County Ordinance Code. This Emergency Proclamation shall be reviewed and ratified by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors within 7 days, or it shall have no further force or effect. The Mandatory Evacuation Order must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the Board of Supervisors.

This Proclamation and Order shall take effect immediately.

It is so proclaimed and ordered this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024, at 10:00  a.m./  p.m.

  
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Jason T. Britt  
Tulare County CAO/Director of Emergency  
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County of Tulare