

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on June 24, 2021, the Lava Fire began burning in Siskiyou County and has since burned more than 25,000 acres; and

WHEREAS on June 30, 2021 and July 2, 2021, the Dotta Fire and the Sugar Fire began burning, respectively, in Plumas County; and

WHEREAS the Dotta Fire and Sugar Fire have since merged (collectively, the "Beckwourth Complex Fire") and crossed into Lassen County, and have burned more than 100,000 acres; and

WHEREAS the fires have destroyed dozens of homes and other structures, and continue to threaten additional homes, necessitating the evacuation of more than one thousand residents; and

WHEREAS the fires have caused damage to, and forced the closure of, major roadways, and continue to threaten power lines as well as communication and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS exceptionally high temperatures, drought conditions, and dry fuels have further increased the spread of these fires; and

WHEREAS the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a Fire Management Assistant Grant to assist with the mitigation, management, and control of the Lava Fire; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to the Lava Fire in Siskiyou County and the Beckwourth Complex Fire in Lassen and Plumas counties; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the Lava Fire and Beckwourth Complex Fire, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by the Lava Fire and the Beckwourth Complex Fire; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the Lava Fire and the Beckwourth Complex Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Siskiyou County due to the Lava Fire and in Lassen and Plumas counties due to the Beckwourth Complex Fire.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1) All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
- 2) The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, title 19, section 2900 et seq.
- 3) As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of these fires. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of the Lava Fire and the Beckwourth Complex Fire.
- 4) The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253, imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants, are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of the Lava Fire or the Beckwourth Complex Fire who applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning June 24, 2021, and ending on the close of business on January 2, 2022, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.
- 5) Vehicle Code sections 9265(a), 9867, 14901, 14902, and 15255.2, requiring the imposition of fees, are suspended with regard to any request for replacement of a driver's identification card, vehicle registration certificate, or certificate of title, by any individual who lost such records as a result of the Lava Fire or the Beckwourth Complex Fire. Such records shall be replaced without charge.
- 6) The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 4602 and 5902, requiring the timely registration or transfer of title, are suspended with regard to any registration or transfer of title by any resident of Siskiyou County, or Lassen County or Plumas County, who is

unable to comply with those requirements as a result of the Lava Fire or the Beckwourth Complex Fire, respectively. The time covered by this suspension shall not be included in calculating any late penalty pursuant to Vehicle Code section 9554.

- 7) Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees, are hereby suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who lost such records as a result of the Lava Fire or the Beckwourth Complex Fire. Such copies shall be provided without charge.
- 8) The Department of Transportation shall request funds through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, United States Code, title 23, section 125, for road repairs or reconstruction.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 16th day of July 2021.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY WEBER, PH.D.
Secretary of State