

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS** on January 2, 2026, a five-alarm structural fire ignited in the downtown area of the City of Arcata in Humboldt County ("Arcata Fire"); and

**WHEREAS** the Arcata Fire, comprised of three interconnected fires, damaged multiple commercial and residential buildings and resulted in the collapse of several large structures and damage to roads and sidewalks from heat exposure, debris, and suppression activities; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Arcata is addressing site stabilization, dust control, and possible asbestos concerns, and has implemented stormwater monitoring and assessments of potential contamination in creeks and waterways; 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 Arcata Fire in the City of Arcata; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the Arcata 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 extreme peril posed by the Arcata Fire; and

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

**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 the City of Arcata due to the Arcata Fire.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

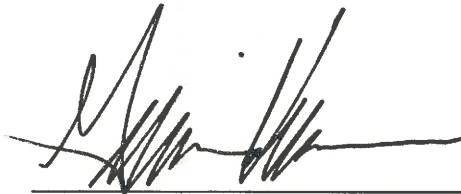
1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.

2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to the City of Arcata, 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. The restrictions set forth in Penal Code section 396, which are automatically triggered upon proclamation of a state of emergency, are suspended, and no such restrictions are imposed, with respect to the Arcata Fire in the City of Arcata.

**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.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 17th day of April 2026.



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

  
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.  
Secretary of State