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## **COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER**

### **DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR AREAS IN THE COUNTY OF ORANGE IMPACTED BY THE AIRPORT FIRE**

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 101040 authorizes the local health officer to take any preventive measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve public health from any public hazard during an emergency;

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code, Division 101, Part 3, Chapter 2, commencing with Section 101075, authorizes the local health officer to declare a local health emergency as necessary to protect public health;

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 101080 authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, affected by hazardous waste which is an imminent threat to the public health;

WHEREAS, State and local emergencies have been declared as a result of the fire known as the "Airport Fire";

WHEREAS, the potential for hazardous exposures and threats to the public and the environment exist in a major wildfire disaster, and ash and debris from destruction of structures may contain hazardous substances that pose adverse health impacts to the public;

WHEREAS, the combustion of building materials results in dangerous ash and debris that contain hazardous substances, and household hazardous substances and the improper handling, transportation, and disposal of such debris can spread hazardous substances and can lead to acute and chronic health effects and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the uncontrolled or unmanaged ash and debris can pose present and potential threats to public health through dust particles, runoff and impact the drinking water supplies including water wells.

The County Health Officer of the County of Orange hereby finds:

1. The Airport Fire that started on September 9, 2024 has created an imminent threat to public health in the County of Orange in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris from the destruction of structures;
2. 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; and

3. That the aforesaid threat to public health necessitates the declaration of the existence of a local health emergency in areas impacted by the Airport Fire in the County of Orange.

NOW, THEREFORE, the County Health Officer hereby declares a local health emergency in the areas of the County of Orange impacted by the Airport Fire.



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Regina Chinsio-Kwong, DO  
County Health Officer

September 13, 2024  
Date