



# WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated To Excellence in Public Service"

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CM/ACM   
Finance n/a  
DA   
Risk Mgt. n/a  
HR nt  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 09, 2016

**DATE:** August 1, 2016  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager  
[akenneston@washoecounty.us](mailto:akenneston@washoecounty.us) (775) 337-5898  
**THROUGH:** Al Rogers, Management Services Director  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to receive and accept the Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Washoe County Manager, ratify the Declaration, and direct staff to publicize the Declaration as required by WCC 65.320. (All Commission Districts)

### SUMMARY

The Board will receive the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the Washoe County Manager for Washoe County resulting from extreme winds, severe weather, fire, heavy smoke, disruption of utility services, and other potential and related events in Washoe County, and is asked accept the declaration and to ratify that declaration by a majority of the Board and to publicize the same pursuant to WCC 65.320.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

N/A

### BACKGROUND

On July 28, 2016 at approximately 6:00 pm, a series of lightning strikes started multiple fires in Washoe County. The extreme winds, severe weather, fire, and heavy smoke caused disruption of utility services and other potential and related events in Washoe County and caused fire response, fire support, voluntary evacuations and sheltering operations as fires threatened areas including, but not limited to, the Red Rock Rancho Haven area, Palomino Valley, Fish Springs, Pyramid Lake area, as well as, areas north of Gerlach.

On August 1, 2016, Washoe County Manager John Slaughter declared an emergency as fires had not been fully contained. The National Weather Service (NWS) announced a Red Flag Fire Warning for August 2, 2016. Washoe County response and recovery activities are continuing for the near future.

Washoe County Code 63.520 allows the County Manager to declare an emergency when circumstances prevent timely action by the Board, provided the Manager seeks the

AGENDA ITEM # 5.I.4



**WASHOE COUNTY**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER**  
Integrity      Communication      Service

P.O. BOX 11130  
RENO, NEVADA 89520-0027  
(775) 328-2001

August 1, 2016

WHEREAS, Washoe County Code 65.320 empowers the County Manager to declare a state of emergency and seek ratification by the Board of County Commissioners when timely action cannot be taken by the Board of Commissioners when any man-made or natural event or circumstance is causing or threatening loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering or financial loss to the extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Washoe is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session; and,

WHEREAS, the County Manager has been requested by the Emergency Management Administrator of said County to proclaim the existence of a local emergency therein; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager does hereby find that man-made or natural events or circumstances including extreme winds, severe weather, fire, heavy smoke, disruption of utility services, and other potential and related events in Washoe County, including the areas north of Township 22N, and its neighboring jurisdictions, commencing on or about the 28th day of July, 2016, at approximately 6:00 p.m. are causing or threatening loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering or financial loss to the extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local state of emergency,

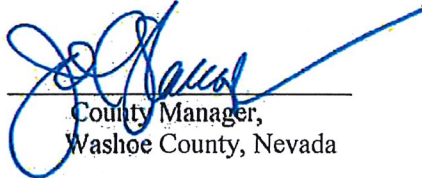
NOW, FOR THE REASONS RECITED HEREIN, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED THAT A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS IN THE AREAS NORTH OF TOWNSHIP 22N AND THEIR NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS.

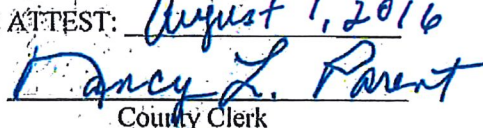
IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that during the existence of said local state of emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the County Manager, Emergency Management Administrator, and the Emergency Services System of this County shall be those prescribed by State Law, by Ordinances and Resolutions of this County, and by the County of Washoe emergency plans.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that said local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist unless a majority of the Board of County Commissioners, at its next lawful meeting, fails to ratify the declaration, or, if the declaration is ratified, until the County Manager determines the state of emergency no longer exists or the threat of an emergency has passed, and the County Manager or the Board of Commissioners terminates the state of emergency.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that a copy of this declaration is forwarded to the Nevada Director of the Division of Emergency Management.

DATED: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

  
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County Manager,  
Washoe County, Nevada

ATTEST: August 1, 2016  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk