Declaration of Health Emergency Mendocino County
Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101080

As the local health officer for the County of Mendocino, I hereby declare as follows:

WHEREAS on October 8, 2017, shortly before midnight, several fires began in and around the communities of Potter Valley and Redwood Valley in Mendocino County; and

WHEREAS these fires have subsequently merged into the Redwood Fire as part of the Mendocino Lake Complex Fire; and

WHEREAS the Redwood Fire has burned tens of thousands of acres of land, destroyed multiple structures in Mendocino County, including homes, and caused the evacuation of residents and damage to roads and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS on October 9, 2017, Mendocino County Sheriff Thomas D. Allman declared a State of Emergency in Mendocino County, which declaration was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on October 10, 2017; and

WHEREAS on October 9, 2017, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an emergency proclamation for Mendocino County due to the effects of the Redwood Fire; and

WHEREAS the Redwood Fire destroyed an estimated 250 homes and 90 additional structures, and as a result created an enormous amount of debris; and

WHEREAS the Redwood Fire is only 5% contained and may destroy additional structures before it is extinguished; and

WHEREAS the debris resulting from Redwood Fire contains hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures, which has created a health emergency and poses a substantial present and potential hazard to human health and safety and to the environment unless it is addressed and managed; and

WHEREAS the approaching rain and snow season threatens to spread the hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures and could thereby pollute and contaminate the drinking water supply of the affected areas of Mendocino County; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, Local the Health Officer may declare a local health emergency in the jurisdiction or in any area thereof affected by hazardous material that is an imminent threat to the public's health; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, I find that a local health emergency exists in Mendocino County due to the debris resulting from the Redwood Fire, that contains hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures, and poses a substantial present and potential hazard to human health and safety and to the environment, unless it is addressed and managed; and

NOW THEREFORE I HEREBY DECLARE AND ORDER that a health emergency exists in Mendocino County due to the debris resulting from the Redwood Fire that contains hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that, during the existence of said health emergency, the powers, functions and duties of the local health officer shall be those prescribed by state law including without limitation the provisions of sections 101075 through 101095 of the California Health and Safety Code and by other statutes as applicable.

THIS DECLARATION OF HEALTH EMERGENCY shall continue in effect for only seven (7) days, unless ratified by action of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. If ratified, this declaration of emergency shall continue until the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors proclaims the termination of the local health emergency, pursuant to their regular review every fourteen (14) days under Health and Safety Code section 101080.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Constance Caldwell, M.D., local health officer for the County of Mendocino, in accordance with the authority vested in me by laws, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, HEREBY

DECLARE A HEALTH EMERGENCY to exist in Mendocino County, California, due to the debris resulting from the Redwood Fire that contains hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of October 2017.



Constance Caldwell M.D.,
Health Officer
County of Mendocino