

# PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 2447 of the County of Humboldt empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence of a Local Emergency when said county is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Board of Supervisors are not in session, and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Humboldt does hereby find:

That on January 2, 2026, a 5-alarm structure fire involving multiple commercial buildings occurred at 10th and H Street, Arcata, CA, resulting in significant fire suppression operations. The fire caused catastrophic damage to public and private property, and infrastructure; and

That water runoff associated with fire suppression efforts, including runoff containing ash, debris, and potential hazardous substances from building contents, poses an imminent threat to public health and safety and may cause significant impacts to environmental resources, including storm drain systems, surface waters, and adjacent properties; and

That there are impacts and potential impacts to water quality and environmental health, including downstream effects to aquaculture operations, fisheries, and sensitive aquatic habitat; and

That the assessment, containment, and mitigation of potential environmental impacts exceed available County and local government resources, and specialized technical assistance is required; and

That conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist and may continue as environmental hazards are assessed and mitigated, and the situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the City of Arcata and County of Humboldt; and

That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** that a Local Emergency now exists within the County of Humboldt and City of Arcata due to the commercial structure fire and related threats to public and environmental safety from fire suppression runoff; and

The County of Humboldt requests all available response and recovery assistance from the State of California and its agencies, including the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the United States government and its agencies, as deemed appropriate by the Governor of California, including funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act and the federal Stafford Act; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that during the existence of said Local Emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this county shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances and resolutions of this county, and by the County

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of Humboldt Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 7, 2015, until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, State of California.

Dated: January 3, 2026

By: W.F. Honsal

William F. Honsal III, Sheriff