

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Declaring a State of
Emergency Due to Rapid Migration of
Individuals to Columbia County Because
of Widespread Wildfires

RESOLUTION NO. 80-2020

WHEREAS, ORS 401.309 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County (Board) to declare that a state of emergency exists in Columbia County and to establish procedures to prepare for and carry out any activity to prevent, minimize, respond to or recover from an emergency; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2020, Governor Kate Brown issued an Emergency Conflagration Declaration due to catastrophic wildfires throughout Oregon, which have impacted more than 900,000 acres and 500,000 people (under levels 1-3 evacuation orders); and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump approved Emergency Declaration #EM-3542 on September 10, 2020, authorizing federal assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support Oregon's response to the wildfires; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County is providing temporary emergency sheltering for evacuees and their livestock at the Columbia County fairgrounds, which requires significant Emergency Management and Public Health resources; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County is also providing substantial mutual aid to Clackamas County to support its response to the Beachie Creek/Lionshead Complex Fire (FEMA Declaration #FM-5356-OR), which has impacted approximately 264,331 acres and is currently only 5% contained, and the Riverside Fire (FEMA Declaration #FM-5366-OR), which has impacted approximately 100,000 acres and is 0% contained; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County is currently also in a state of emergency due the COVID-19 global pandemic (declared on March 13, 2020 through Resolution No. 25-2020 and extended through Resolution No. 74-2020), and is supporting Malheur County's response efforts by deploying a staff member to the State Joint Emergency Response Unit; and

WHEREAS, all Public Health and Emergency Management resources have

been exhausted in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and additional resources required to support the State's Emergency Conflagration Declaration are beyond the County's capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that a state of emergency exists because in addition to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County is experiencing a rapid migration of individuals and livestock to Columbia County due to widespread wildfires in Oregon, which is severely taxing County resources; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County's emergency management, public health and public safety agencies, and other public and private agencies, are likely to suffer from the stretched resources, overtime costs and unusual expenses in responding to the wildfires and resulting migration of evacuees; and

WHEREAS, the effects of this event have exhausted local government resources available to deal with the event, have required a coordinated response beyond that which occurs routinely, and are beyond that which can be addressed by mutual aid agreements and cooperative assistance agreements which have been entered into to respond to events such as this; and

WHEREAS, a preliminary assessment of property damage or loss, injuries and deaths is set forth above; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the extent of damages and assistance needed may be beyond the capabilities of Columbia County to provide the needed response and assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY RESOLVES AND DECLARES that, effective September 10, 2020, a state of local emergency exists throughout Columbia County, as defined by ORS 401.025(1)(b), due to a rapid migration of evacuated individuals and livestock to Columbia County due to widespread wildfires in Oregon, and damages sustained and costs incurred as a result thereof.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that upon declaration of a state of emergency, the Board of Commissioners shall be authorized to take such actions and issue such orders as are determined to be necessary to protect the public and property and to efficiently conduct activities that minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency, and further, that the County Department of Emergency Management is empowered to carry out the appropriate function and duties during times of emergency and shall implement the Columbia County Emergency Operations Plan.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Columbia County Board of

Commissioners may take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate response and recovery from this emergency, including but not limited to, requesting assistance and potential reimbursements from the State of Oregon and the appropriate federal agencies.

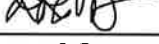
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that emergency procurements of goods and services are authorized pursuant to ORS 279B.080, ORS 279C.335(6), ORS 279.380(4), the Columbia County Personal Services Contracting Rules, Section X.B, and the Columbia County Public Contracting Rules, Section F.6.d.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration of emergency shall expire on October 22, 2020.

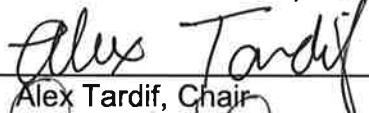
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

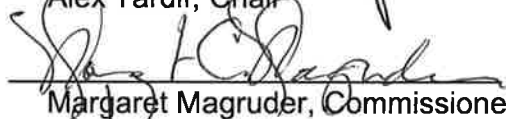
DATED this 14 day of September, 2020.

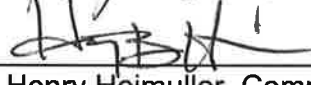
Approved as to form

By: 
Office of County Counsel

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Alex Tardif, Chair

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: 
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner