PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on November 17, 2020, the Mountain View Fire began burning in Mono County and has quickly spread to over 20,000 acres due to strong winds and dry fuels; and

WHEREAS the fire has forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents, destroyed over 80 structures, and tragically resulted in at least one fatality; and

WHEREAS the fire has forced the closure of roadways and is threatening critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to the Mountain View Fire in Mono County; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by this fire, by reason of its magnitude, is or is likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and requires the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with this fire; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of this fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY to exist in Mono County due to the Mountain View Fire.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government are to utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, to protect their safety, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.

2. The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to Mono County, if appropriate, under the authority of the California
Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.

3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of the fire. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of the fire.

4. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of the Mountain View Fire in Mono County who applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning November 17, 2020, and ending on the close of business on May 18, 2021, who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

5. Vehicle Code sections 9265(a), 9867, 14901, 14902, and 15255.2, requiring the imposition of certain fees, are suspended with regard to any request for replacement of a driver’s license or identification card, vehicle registration certificate, or certificate of title, by any individual who lost such records as a result of this fire. Such records shall be replaced without charge.

6. The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 4602 and 5902, requiring the timely registration or transfer of title, are suspended with regard to any registration or transfer of title by any resident who is unable to comply with those requirements as a result of this fire. The time covered by this suspension shall not be included in calculating any late penalty pursuant to Vehicle Code section 9554.

7. Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees, are hereby suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, and marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who lost such records as a result of this fire. Such copies shall be provided without charge.

8. In order to directly respond to the needs of impacted assisted living facilities, adult residential facilities, child care facilities, children’s residential facilities, resource family homes, and other similar facilities within the State Department of Social Services’ jurisdiction, the Director of the State Department of Social Services may waive any provisions of the Health and Safety Code or Welfare and Institutions Code, and accompanying regulations or written directives, with respect to the use, licensing, or approval of facilities or homes within the Department’s jurisdiction set forth in the California Community Care Facilities Act (Health and Safety Code section 1500 et seq.), the California Child Day Care Facilities Act (Health and Safety Code section 1596.70 et seq.), and the California Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act (Health and Safety Code section 1569 et seq.). Any
waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department’s website and shall only be in effect so long as necessary to address the direct impacts of this fire.

9. In order to ensure hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities remain open, the Director of the Department of Public Health may waive any of the licensing requirements of Chapters 1 and 2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and accompanying regulations with respect to any hospital, clinic or health facility identified in Health and Safety Code sections 1200 and 1250 that is impacted by the fire. Any waiver shall include alternative measures that, under the circumstances, will allow the facilities to remain open while protecting public health and safety. Any facilities being granted a waiver shall be established and operated in accordance with their disaster and mass casualty plan. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department’s website and shall only be in effect so long as necessary to address the direct impact of this fire.

10. State statutes, rules, regulations and requirements are hereby suspended to the extent they would prevent, hinder, or delay the following activities:

   a. Removal, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste and debris resulting from the Mountain View Fire that has burned and continues to burn in areas that are subject to the jurisdiction of departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency; and

   b. Necessary restoration and rehabilitation of timberland, streams, rivers, and other waterways.

Such statutes, rules, regulations and requirements are hereby suspended only to the extent necessary for expediting the removal and cleanup of debris from the Mountain View Fire, and for implementing any restoration plan. Individuals who desire to conduct activities under this suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements shall first request that the appropriate Agency Secretary, or the Secretary’s designee, make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under this suspension.

The Secretary for the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency shall use sound discretion in applying this provision to ensure that the suspension serves the purpose of accelerating cleanup and recovery, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment.

This provision shall apply to, but is not necessarily limited to: solid waste facility permits, waste discharge requirements for storage and disposal; emergency timber harvesting; stream environment zones; emergency construction activities; and waste discharge requirements and/or Water Quality Certification for discharges of fill material or pollutants. Boards, departments and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency shall
exercise their administrative discretion and expedite the granting of other authorizations, waivers or permits necessary for the removal, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous debris resulting from the Mountain View Fire, and for other actions necessary for the protection of public health and the environment.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18th day of November 2020.

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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

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ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State