



# MONTEREY COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

ADMINISTRATION  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/ANIMAL SERVICES  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR/PUBLIC GUARDIAN

CLINIC SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH



## A DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR THE SOBERANES FIRE INCIDENT

WHEREAS on July 22, 2016, a wildfire swept through the Soberanes area of unincorporated Monterey County ("Soberanes Fire"), which has caused severe damage to the surrounding area within Monterey County, including areas around Soberanes Creek, Garrapata State Park, Palo Colorado, north of Big Sur; and

WHEREAS as of August 22, 2016, the Soberanes Fire has affected 86,294 acres, is 60 percent contained, and continues to burn; and

WHEREAS the Soberanes Fire has caused structural damage to several private buildings or the complete destruction of private buildings; and

WHEREAS the destruction of private buildings has resulted in the accumulation of ash debris, much of which has been determined to be contaminated with heavy metals and/or asbestos; and

WHEREAS the circumstances of the accumulation of this contaminated debris as a result of this wildfire, by reason of the magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single local government and will require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to abate; and

WHEREAS Dr. Edward Moreno is the Health Officer of the County of Monterey; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, I find that conditions of exposure to hazardous waste and an immediate threat to the health and safety of the public exist in the areas burned by the Soberanes Fire; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, Monterey County needs other political subdivisions and State agencies to provide mutual aid, including personnel, equipment and other available resources; and

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors' next regular meetings are scheduled for August 23 and 30, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Edward Moreno, Health Officer of the County of Monterey, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and statute, particularly section 101080 of the California Health & Safety Code, HEREBY DECLARE A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY to exist in the affected areas of the County of Monterey due to the Soberanes Fire.

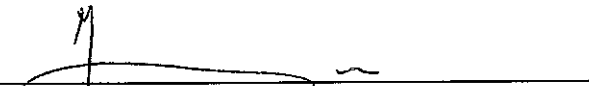
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, in accordance with the powers and duties of the local health officer vested by sections 101085 and 101310 of the California Health and Safety Code, that all assisting state agencies, in particular the State Department of Toxics Substance Control, Office of Emergencies Services (OES), the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, and all appropriate County agencies, in particular the Environmental Health Bureau of the Monterey County Health Department, utilize and employ personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Incident Commander for the Soberanes Fire Incident.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY ORDERED that all persons are to heed the directions of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their health and safety. This may include temporary or extended evacuations of identified dwelling units during hazardous waste demolition and removal efforts, further and/or expanded access restrictions on property owners and the public into areas identified to be contaminated, and the removal of contaminants and debris of those parcels of which an agreement as to the remediation efforts has not been determined or identified by the respective property owners.

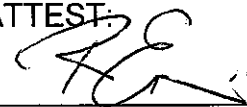
I FURTHER DIRECT that pursuant to section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, the local health emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. If ratified by the Board of Supervisors, section 101080 requires the health emergency to be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at least once every 14 days and for the local health emergency to be terminated at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant termination.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible this declaration be filed with the Board of Supervisors and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this declaration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my signature to be affixed this 22nd day of August 2016.

  
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Edward Moreno, M.D., M.P.H.  
Monterey County Health Officer

ATTEST:

  
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Mr. John Ramirez  
Director of Environmental Health

*ASSTANT DIRECTOR FOR JOHN RAMIREZ, D.M.*