State of Nevada

Executive Department

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY FOR VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN COMPLEX FIRE

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2016, Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation experienced a severe weather system that produced multiple strikes of dry lightning that resulted in numerous wildfires throughout the region;

WHEREAS, Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe have battled multiple wildfires, including the Tule, Anderson, Sage, Seven Lakes and Rock Fires, which are collectively referred to as the "Virginia Mountains Complex Fire" and have burned approximately 54,000 acres;

WHEREAS, the intensity of the wildfires was exacerbated by existing drought conditions, above-average temperatures, and high winds;

WHEREAS, the wildfires have threatened hundreds of homes, property, and livestock, and caused the evacuation of residents;

WHEREAS, the wildfires have also caused severe damage to federal, State, and local transportation routes, including federal-aid highways, which have resulted in various road closures and immediate repairs are necessary for proper response and recovery that constitute an emergency pursuant to Title 23, Sections 120(e) and 125 of the United States Code;

WHEREAS, I, as the Governor of the State of Nevada, authorized and directed the State of Nevada to mobilize and make available all State agencies and resources necessary and requested by Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to respond to the wildfires and help residents;

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2016, the Tribal Council of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe declared that an emergency existed due to the wildfires that posed a threat to the life, safety, health, and welfare of persons and property on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, including the loss of power and water service;

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2016, the County Manager of Washoe County declared that an emergency existed due to the fires that posed a threat to the life, safety, health, and welfare of persons and property in Washoe County;

WHEREAS, Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe have required and may continue to require assistance from the State of Nevada to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons and property, and are experiencing a significant economic impact in responding to these matters and anticipate continued economic obligations resulting from financial hardship for short-term response and long-term recovery of the affected area;

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 414 authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation declaring a state of emergency when a natural, technological, or man-made emergency or disaster of major proportions has occurred within the State of Nevada, and the assistance of State agencies is needed to supplement the efforts and capabilities of political subdivisions and tribal governments to save lives and protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons and property; and,

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides: "The supreme executive power of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada."

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as the Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada, I hereby declare and proclaim that a state of emergency for Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe exists due to the Virginia Mountain Complex Fire that began on July 28, 2016, and direct that all agencies of the State of Nevada continue to assist and supplement the efforts and resources of Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons and property of this State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 8th day of August, in the year two thousand sixteen.

Governor of the State of Nevada

By the Governor:

Barbara K. Cegavske
Secretary of State

Deputy Secretary of State