

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SIERRA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**ORDINANCE No. 1112**

**AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF SIERRA PROHIBITING OPEN FIRES ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF SIERRA COUNTY DUE TO THE EXTREME FIRE DANGER AND AMENDING SECTION 8.12.50 TO THE SIERRA COUNTY CODE**

**WHEREAS**, the state of California is, for the third year, facing severe weather conditions which has resulted in multiple extreme wildfire seasons; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor has declared an emergency due to extreme drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, drought conditions and human negligence in using fire during such conditions are contributors to forest and wild fires; and

**WHEREAS**, Sierra County is particularly susceptible to devastating wild fires due to the prevailing weather conditions and topography within the County.

**WHEREAS**, in light of this extreme fire danger facing both the State as a whole, and Sierra County specifically, the Sierra County Board of Supervisors finds it necessary to enact restrictions on private lands within the unincorporated area of Sierra County and public lands within the unincorporated area of Sierra County which are not owned and/or controlled by state or federal governmental agencies in order to further reduce the likelihood of human-caused fires within Sierra County; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an immediate need to take action to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens and natural environment of Sierra County from further harm and risk due to extreme wildfire and fire hazard conditions, the lack of firefighting resources statewide and extreme dry conditions in Sierra County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SIERRA ORDAINS** that:

Sierra County code, Title 8, Health and Sanitation, Chapter 8.12, Section 8.12.050 is amended to read as follows:

**8.12.050:** Building, maintaining, attending, or using outdoor fires, including campfires, bonfires, pit fires, tiki torches, portable stoves, excepting of propane stoves, or any other open flame fire is hereby prohibited on all private lands within the unincorporated area of Sierra County and public lands within the unincorporated area of Sierra County which are not owned and/or controlled by

state or federal governmental agencies. This prohibition shall stay in effect until November 1, 2022, unless rescinded prior to November 1, 2022 by the Board of Supervisors. The open flame prohibition contained herein shall not extend to the following operations (exempt properties):

1. Commercial/professional barbeque or smoker equipment set up and maintained within an area cleared of fuel for a minimum of 30 feet surrounding the equipment and continually monitored during operation. A fire extinguisher shall be readily accessible at all times during operation of such commercial/professional equipment.
2. Private campgrounds selected for and actively monitored and inspected by the U.S. Forest Service (agency) with the following requirements validated by the agency:
  - a. Full time hosts on site during visitor use with daily checks of campfires and monitoring of campfire usage.
  - b. Water (plumbed with hoses capable of reaching a fire or a five-gallon bucket) and fire tools such as shovel, hoe, or similar tools on site.
  - c. Minimum of three (3) feet of mineral soil or non-combustible surface surrounding the perimeter of the any fire rings.
  - d. Fire rings must have not more than four (4) foot internal diameter.
  - e. Fires are limited to use for cooking or warmth and may not be used for disposal of vegetation.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately in accordance with California law.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sierra, State of California, at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Adams, Huebner, LeBlanc, Dryden, and Roen

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

COUNTY OF SIERRA



PAUL ROEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



HEATHER FOSTER  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



DAVID PRENTICE  
County Counsel