

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2021-02

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN
THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY AS A RESULT OF EXTREME WEATHER
CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, ORS 401.025(1)(a) defines “emergency” as a natural event or circumstance causing or threatening widespread loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering, or financial loss, including but not limited to “fire” and “severe weather”;

WHEREAS, ORS 401.025(3) defines “emergency services” as activities engaged in by local government agencies to prepare for an emergency and to prevent, minimize, respond to, or recover from an emergency, including but not limited to coordination, preparedness planning, firefighting, interagency liaison, and law enforcement;

WHEREAS, ORS 401.305 provides authority for the City of Grass Valley to act as an emergency management agency, including authority to appoint an emergency program manager who is responsible for the organization, administration, and operation of the emergency program, and establish policies and protocols for defining and directing responsibilities during the time of emergency;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oregon declared a drought throughout Sherman County on June 8, 2021;

WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service, the high temperature in Grass Valley was 110 degrees Fahrenheit, on June 29, 2021;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for the region, including Grass Valley, through at least 10:00 p.m. Thursday, July 1, 2021;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued an Excessive Heat Warning for the region, including Grass Valley, through at least 8:00 p.m. Sunday, July 4, 2021;

WHEREAS, the current National Weather Service forecast for Grass Valley shows daily high temperatures as high as 95 degrees Fahrenheit and no lower than 90 degrees Fahrenheit through at least July 4, 2021;

WHEREAS, according to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause over 19,000 fires and require emergency room treatment for over 9,000 people in the United States each year; and

94 { **WHEREAS**, the City of Grass Valley, like many other cities in the western United States, is carefully monitoring water use due to a shortage of chlorine necessary for treatment, and the City cannot afford to use its limited water supply for fighting fires caused by fireworks;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY
ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. A local State of Emergency is declared to exist through the City of Grass Valley as a result of severe weather conditions.
2. This Declaration of a State of Emergency is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until July 9, 2021. It may be amended, modified, supplemented, and/or extended in additional increments by the City Council so long as conditions continue to pose an ongoing, immediate, and substantial threat to life, safety, health, or property in the City of Grass Valley.
3. The City Council appoints the City Administrator as the emergency program manager to address mitigating risks associated with extreme heat.
4. The City Council authorizes the City Administrator to coordinate emergency services connected with response to and recovery from this emergency, including but not limited to requesting assistance from the State of Oregon, Sherman County, and South Sherman Fire & Rescue, to the extent available.
5. To preserve limited public safety and water resources, and to prioritize emergency preparedness and response to maximize public safety, including those related to extreme weather conditions, use of all fireworks as defined by ORS 480.111 within the City of Grass Valley during this emergency is strictly prohibited. Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be subject to a Class A civil infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 per use. For purposes of this section, "use" includes lighting, exploding, or igniting in any way. Commercial fireworks displays approved by local or state government are exempt from this restriction. Use of fireworks illegal under state law continues to be prohibited at all times.
6. The City may take any other actions within its authority for the protection of safety, health, life, or property during this emergency.

As Amended

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 1st DAY OF JULY, 2021.

MICHAEL SIGMUND Rita Wilson *Ronnie Williams*
 Voting Yes, Councilors: Ree Ella von Borstel, Joann Laarte
 Voting No, Councilors: _____
 Absent, Councilors: _____
 Abstaining, Councilors: _____

AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS 1st DAY OF JULY, 2021.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Merred Kuebel
 FOR Mayor

Whitney R.