

**TOWN OF LAKE CITY, COLORADO
RESOLUTION 2026-10**

**A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND AFFIRMING THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL
DISASTER EMERGENCY DUE TO THE ELK FIRE, AND AUTHORIZING THE
MAYOR OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Town of Lake City, Colorado, pursuant to Colorado statute, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of the Town of Lake City, Colorado (the "Town"); and

WHEREAS, § 24-33.5-701, et seq., C.R.S., as amended, provides procedures for statewide and local prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-703(3), C.R.S., as amended, a "disaster" is defined to mean "the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to fire; flood; earthquake; wind; storm; wave action; hazardous substance incident; oil spill or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage; volcanic activity; epidemic; air pollution; blight; drought; infestation; explosion; civil disturbance; hostile military or paramilitary action; a market disruption, including a trade disruption or an atypical disruption in the market that affects production, distribution, or consumption of a product or service; or a condition of riot, insurrection, or invasion existing in the state or in any county, city, town, or district in the state."; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-703(3.5), C.R.S., as amended, an "emergency" is defined to mean "an unexpected event that places life or property in danger and requires an immediate response through the use of state and community resources and procedures.;" and

WHEREAS, on or about July 9, 2026, a lightning strike ignited the Elk Fire (the "Fire") on Federal lands in unincorporated Hinsdale County, located North of Lake City, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2026, the Fire crossed onto private lands, resulting in Hinsdale County and the Town of Lake City to declare the Fire a local disaster emergency and to activate the emergency management plans and policies; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2026, Alexander Mulhall ("Mulhall"), as the Town of Lake City Principal Executive Officer, and pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), declared a local state of emergency and disaster within the Town of Lake City by his "Local Disaster or Emergency Declaration" (the "Declaration") dated August 7, 2026 and attested to by the Town Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Mulhall determined extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the potential suffering of people and to protect or rehabilitate property and set forth the proclaimed certain actions be taken including cooperation with the Hinsdale County Clerk and the Hinsdale County Office of Emergency Management to implement the Emergency Operations Plan and take related actions to protect the people and property of the Town; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., as amended, the declaration of a local disaster "shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision;" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., as amended, any order declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster emergency "shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the clerk and recorder," and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-709(2), C.R.S., as amended, the effect of declaring a local disaster emergency "is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans."; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lake City is outside of its capabilities with both technical assistance and financial resources to address the implications of the Elk Fire located in unincorporated Hinsdale County and within the immediate vicinity of the Town of Lake City; and

WHEREAS, power outages, displaced residents, damage to property, loss of critical infrastructure, and bodily harm may occur; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Fire has significantly impacted the tourist-based economy in Lake City and Hinsdale County through business disruption and reduced visitor numbers. Tourists and second-homeowners have canceled trips due to safety concerns, poor air quality, closed attractions, and reduced hours or closures for lodging, restaurants, and retail shops. Lake City and Hinsdale County businesses are experiencing substantial revenue losses. Owners and employees are impacted. Negative perceptions of Lake City and Hinsdale County as a destination due to the prolonged impacts of the Elk Fire may discourage visitors for months, slowing economic recovery and putting long-term financial strain on our community that depends heavily on tourism. The summer tourism season is an economic driver and this impact from the Elk Fire occurring in the busiest weeks of the year, is a significant economic impact and will take time to recover from; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees considers this a state of local disaster emergency due, in pertinent part, on the basis that the Fire has a real and likely potential to spread rapidly and destroy property and possibly create a danger of loss of human life. The area of disaster includes all areas within the border of Lake City, Colorado. The Fire presents challenges to the Town that the Town must be able to address on an emergency basis. Every effort must be made to preserve the Town's ability to respond to public service challenges arising from the potential rapid spread and continued burning of the Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF LAKE CITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, that said Declaration executed by Mulhall on August 7, 2026, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by this reference is hereby ratified and affirmed within the 7 day period required by state statute and declared to continue pursuant to § 24-33.5-709, C.R.S, until and unless otherwise terminated by the Town of Lake City Board of Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Lake City, Colorado, that a state of disaster emergency is in effect within the incorporated areas of Lake City,

Colorado.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Lake City, Colorado, that it requests the Governor of the State of Colorado to do whatever is necessary to seek said Federal funds for disaster emergency relief and other available funding for the Town of Lake City, its businesses, and its citizens, and to derive funds from the State of Colorado for emergency disaster relief which may be in excess of limitations contained in Article X, Section 6 and Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution (TABOR).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor or their designee be, and hereby is, authorized to sign any and all documents for the purpose of defining and communicating the existence of said disaster emergency.

The above and foregoing Resolution was, on motion duly made and seconded, adopted at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Lake City, Colorado on the 12th day of August 2026.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LAKE CITY, COLORADO



Dave Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST:

LAKE CITY TOWN CLERK

BY: 
Christina Bowman, Town Clerk

EXHIBIT A



Town of Lake City

P. O. Box 544
230 North Bluff Street
Lake City, Colorado 81235
970 • 944-2333

Local Disaster or Emergency Declaration

WHEREAS, the Town of Lake City, Colorado on August 7, 2026, is facing the imminent threat of ongoing physical and economic damage, injury, and loss of life from the Elk Fire located in unincorporated Hinsdale County just outside of the Town of Lake City; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lake City Town Manager Alexander Mulhall, the principal executive officer of The Town of Lake City, Colorado, has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the potential suffering of people and to protect or rehabilitate property;

WHEREAS, under C.R.S § 24-33.5-709(1) a local disaster emergency may be initially declared only by the principal executive officer of a town; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Fire started on federal lands, was caused by a lightning strike, and crossed onto private lands on August 6, 2026, causing Hinsdale County and the Town of Lake City to declare this local disaster emergency and to activate our emergency management plans and policies.

NOW, THEREFORE, Alexander Mulhall, as the Town of Lake City Town Manager and principal executive officer of the Town of Lake City, Colorado, declares and proclaims as follows:

1. A local state of emergency/disaster is hereby declared for the Town of Lake City, Colorado pursuant to C.R.S § 24-33.5-709(1).
2. The local state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Town of Lake City Board of Trustees.
3. This declaration of local emergency/disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Town Clerk and the Hinsdale County Clerk and the Hinsdale County Office of Emergency Management.
4. This declaration of local emergency/disaster activates the Hinsdale County Emergency Operations Plan which the Town of Lake City has adopted.
5. This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this 7th day of August, 2026.

TOWN OF LAKE CITY, COLORADO

By: Alexander Mulhall

Alexander Mulhall, Town of Lake City Town Manager

ATTEST:

Christina Bowman
Christina Bowman, Town Clerk