

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING AN)
EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS)
PROVIDED FOR IN CHAPTER 38.52 RCW) **RESOLUTION**
AND 39.04.280 RCW AND OTHER)
MATTERS RELATED THERETO)

WHEREAS, multiple wildland fires have ignited across Spokane County, impacting the life and safety of thousands of County residents, the economy, and environment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 38.52.70, each political subdivision of the State of Washington is authorized and directed to establish an Emergency Management program for their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, John Nowels, Sheriff of Spokane County and Director of Emergency Management, has indicated that he believes the emergency conditions will persist for the foreseeable future and result in the need for response and recovery resources, and further actions will be necessary to mitigate the impacts of the fires; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 38.52 RCW, Spokane County has prepared and adopted the Spokane County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which provides that a local state of emergency will be proclaimed by issuance of an emergency declaration to authorize extraordinary measures to meet emergencies and/or solve disaster-related issues. A Declaration allows for the emergency use of resources, the bypassing of time-consuming requirements such as the competitive bid process, and activates extraordinary measures as outlined in the CEMP. A declaration is a prerequisite for state assistance and is made at the onset of a disaster to allow the local government to do as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County has the care of County property and the management of County funds and business; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions RCW 42.30.080, notices of a Special Meeting under the Open Public Meetings act may be dispensed with to deal with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property or the likelihood such injury or damage, when time requirements of such notice would make notice impractical and increase the likelihood of such injury or damage; and

WHEREAS, there is a present emergency caused by multiple wildland fires occurring in Spokane County which necessitates activation of the Spokane County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and/or support functions and utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to RCW 36.40.180 and RCW 38.52.070(2).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County that pursuant to RCW 36.40.180 and RCW 38.52.070(2) as follows:

- (1) There is hereby declared by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington an emergency, as provided for in RCW 36.40.180, due to fires in Spokane

County, Washington, and as such, designated county departments are authorized to enter into contracts and incur expenditures necessary to combat such emergency conditions without further notice or hearing to include procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing assistance to the victims of such emergency; and

- (2) Pursuant to the provisions of 38.52.070(2) the emergency described in section 1 hereinabove, constitutes a disaster and as such county departments, to include County emergency Management in conjunction with implementing the CEMP, shall have the power to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such disaster, protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster without regard to procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitution requirements), including, but not limited to, budget law limitations, requirements of competitive bidding, and publication of notices, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, and other items set forth in RCW 38.52.070(2); and
- (3) Each and every recital hereinabove is adopted as a fact supporting a declaration of emergency as set forth in RCW 36.40.180 and chapter 38.52 RCW and the Clerk of the Board is directed to enter this resolution in her minutes to support the emergency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of August, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

"VIRTUALLY APPROVED"

Mary Brooks, Chair

"VIRTUALLY APPROVED"

Josh Kerns, Vice-Chair

"VIRTUALLY APPROVED"

Al French, Commissioner



ATTEST:

"VIRTUALLY APPROVED"

Amber Waldref, Commissioner


Ginna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board

"VIRTUALLY APPROVED"

Chris Jordan, Commissioner