United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | R5 Pacific Southwest Region Los Padres NF | 6750 Navigator Way Suite 150 Goleta, CA 93117

File Code: 1010 **Date:** September 2, 2016

Subject: Monterey Ranger District Fire Area Closure

To: District Ranger, Monterey Ranger District

From: Robert A. Baird, Forest Supervisor

I am issuing Forest Order 05-07-51-16-16 to close the area described in Exhibit A and shown in Exhibit B, including all campgrounds and day use areas located inside of this area. The roads and trails within the Monterey Ranger District (MRD) Fire Closure Area are also closed, with the exception of Nacimiento – Fergusson Road. This area, road, and trail closure will be in effect until the Soberanes and Chimney wildfire on the MRD are declared out. The fires are unpredictable and difficult to control in wilderness areas.

This Order is needed to provide for public safety. The Soberanes Fire is actively burning in the northern part of the MRD and the Chimney Fire is a continued threat to the southern part of the MRD, creating dangerous conditions for the public. There is a need for this action because human life, property and resource values are threatened by these wildfires that originated on July 22 and August 13, 2016 respectively. Fire hazards have been identified and pose a threat to public safety because the roads and trail systems within and near the burn area are narrow and hazardous. Additionally, there are numerous natural hazards created by the fires, such as tree snags, staubs and root holes that have been created by roots burning beneath the surface of the soil. Monterey County currently maintains Nacimiento-Fergusson Road, which is safe and open to public travel. The roads accessing these areas, as well as nearby areas, are being used for staging heavy equipment, such as dozers and other suppression equipment and along with fire suppression activities, make the area unsafe for the public.

The Forest has had discussions regarding the closure with local Law Enforcement and Fire Departments as well as cooperators. No opposition or issues were found.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

ORDER NO. 05-07-51-16-16
FIRE CLOSURE ORDER
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST
MONTEREY RANGER DISTRICT

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited in the Monterey Ranger District within the Los Padres National Forest. This Order is effective from September 2, 2016, until Soberanes and Chimney Fires are declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Fire Closure Area, as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.52(e).

2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Fire Closure Area, with the exception of Nacimiento – Fergusson Road (Forest Road No. 22S01), as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.54(e).

3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Fire Closure Area, as shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Any Federal, State or Local Law Enforcement Officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

3. Owners or lessees of private land within Fire Closure Area are exempt from the prohibitions listed above to the extent necessary to gain access to their land.

4. Persons who reside within the Fire Closure Area are exempt from the prohibitions listed above to the extent necessary to gain access to their residences.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual or $10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Done at Goleta, California this 2nd day of September 2016.

Robert Baird
Forest Supervisor
Los Padres National Forest

ORDER NUMBER 05-07-51-16-16

EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST
MONTEREY RANGER DISTRICT
EXHIBIT A

The Fire Closure Area begins at the northwest corner of Section 1, Township 17 South, Range 1 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM), then continues east along the National Forest boundary to its intersection with Carmel Valley Road (Section 28, Township 18 South, Range 4 East), then continues south and east along the National Forest boundary to its intersection with the corner of the forest boundary in Section 1, Township 20 South, Range 6 East, MDBM, then continues south along the forest boundary to its intersection with the eastern-most boundary of the Monterey Ranger District in Section 35, Township 24 South, Range 7 East, MDBM, then continues west along the forest boundary to its intersection with National Forest System lands in Section 3, Township 24 South, Range 6 East, MDBM, then continues south and west along the forest boundary to the mouth of San Carpoforo Creek, then continues east and north along the forest boundary to its intersection with the northeast corner of Section 9, Township 24 South, Range 6 East, MDBM, then continues west along the forest boundary to its intersection with State Highway 1, then continues northwest along State Highway 1 to its intersection with the forest boundary at Plaskett Creek Campground (Section 19, Township 23 South, Range 5 East, MDBM), then continues east, north and west around the Plaskett Creek Campground boundary to its intersection with State Highway 1, then continues north along State Highway 1 to its intersection with the forest boundary near Limekiln (Section 15, Township 21 South, Range 4 East), then continues north and west along the forest boundary to its intersection with State Highway 1 at Big Sur (Section 30, Township 19 South, Range 1 East), then continues north along State Highway 1 to its intersection with Palo Colorado Road, then continues east back to starting point, as shown on the attached map.