AN ORDER RESTRICTING OUTDOOR BURNING IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ORANGE COUNTY

STATE OF TEXAS	§	COMMISSONERS' COURT
	§	
COUNTY OF ORANGE	§	OF ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS

WHEREAS, there exists a present danger that fires being used to bum debris may not be adequately controlled and spread and ultimately result in extensive damage and losses; and,

WHEREAS, fire departments and emergency responders are not adequately staffed and quipped to respond to fires that are not controlled adequately; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec.352.081 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Commissioners' Court, by court order, may prohibit or restrict outdoor burning in all and/or part of the unincorporated areas of the county if the Commissioners' Court makes a finding that circumstances are present in all of the unincorporated areas of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; and,
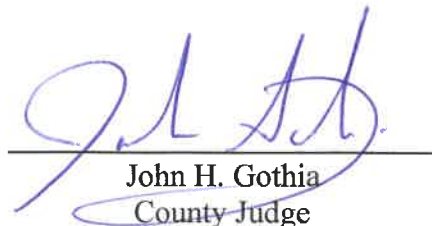
WHEREAS, an order issued under this section shall not apply to outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by Texas Parks and Wildlife for prescribed burns to enhance wetland habitat conditions and control fuel loads; the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for: firefighter training, public utility, natural gas pipeline, or mining operations, or harvesting agricultural crops; and,

WHEREAS, a person commits a Class C misdemeanor if the person knowingly or intentionally violates prohibition or restriction established by an order stopped under Sec. 352.081; and,

WHEREAS, The County Judge of Orange County does hereby enter an Order prohibiting outdoor burning on July 28, 2023.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that outdoor burning is prohibited in all unincorporated areas of Orange County, except for said exemptions stipulated above for a period of 7 days effective 10:00 a.m. on July 28, 2023, unless terminated earlier based upon a determination that the public safety hazard no longer exists by the County Judge and/or Commissioners Court.

Signed this 28th day of July, 2023

John H. Gothia
County Judge