

ORDINANCE NO. 17-13

**AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF SISKIYOU
AMENDING
SECTION 3-17.01 OF CHAPTER 17 OF TITLE 3
OF THE SISKIYOU COUNTY CODE
REGARDING CAMPING OUTSIDE DESIGNATED CAMPGROUNDS**

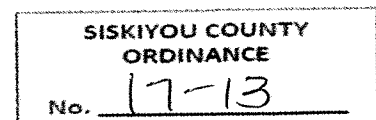
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SISKIYOU ORDAINS AS
FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: Section 3-17.01, of Chapter 17, of Title 3 is hereby amended to read
as follows:

Sec. 3-17.01. – Camping on private property outside designated
campgrounds.

(a) Purpose and Intent.

- i. This Chapter is intended to protect private property within the unincorporated area of the County from the destruction and littering that may accompany prolonged camping or squatting.
- ii. This Chapter is intended to ensure that proper health and safety accommodations are provided to those who lawfully camp.
- iii. This Chapter is not intended to prohibit overnight camping on property with a legally established residence so long as the owner consents.
- iv. Nothing in this Chapter is intended to prohibit or make unlawful, activities of a property owner or other lawful user if such activities are expressly authorized pursuant this Code or other law, or expressly authorized pursuant to a land use entitlement issued under this Code.



(b) Camping or squatting is prohibited. Except as otherwise provided in this section, within the unincorporated area of the County, it is unlawful and a public nuisance to camp or squat upon private property that does not have a legally established residence, or is outside designated campgrounds.

i. For purposes of this section, "squat" means to unlawfully settle on another's land without legal title or authority to do so, or entering upon another's land in bad faith claiming the right to do so by virtue of any title of one's own or by virtue of some agreement with another whom one believes to hold title.

ii. For purposes of this section, "legally established residence" means a structure designed, approved, and maintained for permanent human habitation pursuant to Title 24 or Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations or constructed prior to adoption of the California Building Standards Code by the County of Siskiyou that is connected to an approved sewer system or to a Siskiyou County inspected and approved wastewater disposal system.

(c) Permit Required. Camping outside of designated campgrounds on private property that does not have a legally established residence either in a recreational vehicle or other shelter or means is allowed only by administrative permit.

(d) Permit Issuance. An administrative permit to camp outside designated campgrounds on private property that does not have a legally established residence shall be issued by the Planning Director upon application by a property owner for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) days, subject to compliance with all of the following:

1. At the termination of the term of camping, all tents and temporary

structures or shelters shall be removed from the subject property.

2. At the termination of the term of camping, all garbage, trash, or other waste shall be removed and properly disposed of.
3. All use of camp fires or burning shall be in compliance with this code and state law, and pursuant to any required permits.

(e) Permit Renewal. The Planning Director may renew or reissue an administrative permit to camp one or more times in a calendar year, so long as the cumulative period of camping authorized on the subject property does not exceed thirty (30) days in one calendar year.

SECTION II: Urgency Ordinance: This is an urgency ordinance within the meaning of Section 25131 of the Government Code and an ordinance for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety within the meaning of Section 25123(d) of the Government Code, which shall be passed immediately upon introduction, and shall take effect immediately. The facts constituting the urgency are as follows: A proliferation of temporary occupancies of land by recreational vehicles and other temporary facilities such as tents, campers, and tarped shelters is occurring in Siskiyou County on otherwise unimproved private property, leading to hundreds of people camping in unpermitted and illegally constructed dwellings without permitted sewage disposal systems or potable water supplies. Trash and human waste accumulation, and other unsanitary conditions arising from these temporary occupancies are impacting the health, safety and quality of life of county residents and the temporary occupants themselves. Three carbon monoxide deaths have resulted from attempts at heating these unpermitted camping shelters. Solid waste at private property camping sites is not being properly removed and is either illegally burned on-site, accumulated on-site causing a vector attraction, buried on-site or left to blow into neighboring properties. The

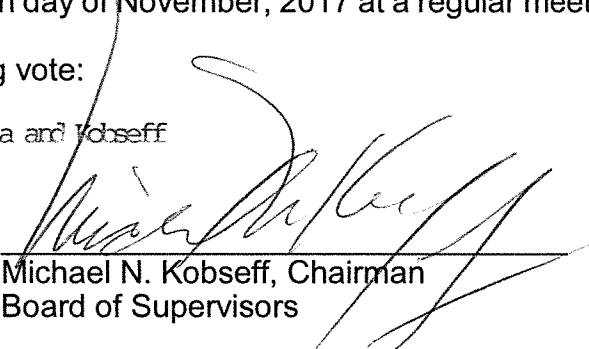
amendments to Chapter 17 of Title 3 of the Siskiyou County Code being made by this ordinance are necessary to protect human health and welfare, groundwater resources, and to limit further degradation of the environment.

SECTION III: Constitutionality: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional.

SECTION IV: This ordinance shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the County of Siskiyou within 15 days of adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of November, 2017 at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Criss, Haupt, Valenzuela and Kobseff
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: Supervisor Nixon
ABSTAIN: NONE



Michael N. Kobseff, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
COLLEEN SETZER, CLERK,
Board of Supervisors

By 

Deputy