



**A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF PLACERVILLE DECLARING MAY, 2026, AS
LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a complex, multisystem bacterial infection transmitted by the bite of an infected tick, and if left untreated, can invade the brain, nervous system, and multiple organs, leading to chronic pain and neurological impairment; and

WHEREAS, early signs of infection often include a rash and flu-like symptoms; however, because there is currently no reliable form of testing to pinpoint the disease with 100 percent accuracy, patients are frequently misdiagnosed with conditions such as fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, or chronic fatigue syndrome; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that while 35,000 cases are reported annually, the actual number of new infections is likely closer to 476,000, meaning many Californians may be suffering without a proper diagnosis or access to prompt treatment; and

WHEREAS, the progression of untreated Lyme disease can lead to devastating consequences, including financial hardship, job loss, and long-term disability, affecting Californians of all ages and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, California is the locus of more distinct borrelia species than any other geographical region in the United States, with the western blacklegged tick found in 56 of California's 58 counties and active year-round; and

WHEREAS, in certain regions of California, the infection rate of nymphal ticks—which are as small as a poppy seed and difficult to detect—has been found to be as high as 42 percent, representing one of the highest infection rates in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the ticks that spread Lyme disease can also transmit co-infections such as babesiosis and anaplasmosis, further complicating the clinical picture and requiring greater medical awareness and specialized care:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nicole Gotberg, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Placerville, hereby proclaim May, 2026, as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

Dated: May 12, 2026

Mayor Nicole Gotberg