



April 28, 2021

Board of Supervisors
44 North San Joaquin Street, Suite 627
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Board Members,

**Ratification and Continuance of Proclamation of Existence
of a Local Emergency for Drought**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution ratifying and continuing the existence of a local emergency due to the drought conditions in San Joaquin County.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The County is in its second year in a row of below normal precipitation that has had an impact on current reservoir conditions and water supply allocations this year. On March 23, 2021, the State Water Project (Department of Water Resources) made their Water Year 2021 allocations announcement to deliver 5 percent of requested water supplies this year, down from the initial allocation of 10 percent announced in December. Initial allocations are based on conservative assumptions regarding hydrology and factors such as reservoir storage. Reservoir and groundwater levels are significantly below average, and despite recent storms, the snowpack is only 58 percent of the average as of March 10, 2021. Continued dry conditions can threaten water supplies, impair critical habitat, reduce recreational opportunities and create uncertainty for all water users. Hydrologic conditions since 2020 have been very similar to the drought years of 2014 and 2015.

Our most water sensitive industries, dryland farming, and cattle operations are now seeing the effects of the lack of soil moisture through the early loss of rangeland grasses. Many cattle producers are needing to buy and provide hay to keep their herds fed. Several water suppliers in the County are implementing measures to deal with short supplies of surface water. For those that do not have irrigation, such as wheat, there have been issues with germination and establishment due to not having enough

GEN/SER - Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency for Drought

rainfall, with estimates of 30-40 percent losses reported. For those crops that do have irrigation access, they likely have had to use supplementary water sources. Other drought-stimulated actions, such as crop substitution, reduced landscape watering, and construction limits to water, should also be expected. There may be a growing need to draw on groundwater supplies to supplement available surface water. Standby pumps will be started this spring, which will start a process of drawing down the groundwater supply. The extent of this drawdown of our aquifers will depend on the length of the drought. This pumping will significantly increase the cost of water in certain areas. One obvious cost is the need to drill deeper wells or additional wells if the existing shallow wells go dry.

The urban areas may also be impacted by the drought during this summer and conservation measures may be needed with the understanding that conservation does not mean lower water bills. Early conservation efforts may help to mitigate the severe effects of the drought. Some Cities have already begun considering activating their Water Shortage Contingency Plans in anticipation of drought conditions.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has granted a Secretarial disaster designation for several California Counties, including San Joaquin County. This designation is a result of the final rule announced for the USDA Disaster Designation Process (7 CFR 759) which includes the nearly automatic approval for counties with severe drought designation (for eight consecutive weeks), as reported on the U.S. Drought Monitor. As a result, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) also declared several California Counties, including San Joaquin County as disaster areas due to drought, making small, non-farm businesses, small agriculture cooperatives, and most private non-profit organizations of any size, that do business directly with growers eligible for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

On April 27, 2021, the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local drought emergency, based on the foregoing and the need for local water providers to take extraordinary measures, such as implementing conservation measures. Ratification and continuance of the proclamation will allow the Board of Supervisors or the Director of Emergency Services to promulgate orders and regulations, and consider possible economic assistance under the Board's authority. The proclamation will cover special districts and makes them eligible as state or federal assistance programs become available, including agricultural or water provider assistance programs to support the management of deteriorating conditions.

Although the full extent of the drought's effects is unknown at this time, this proclamation will serve to increase attention to the need to conserve water and will assist in obtaining local, state, and federal assistance for those industries which are most rainfall sensitive and are now feeling the effects of the dry conditions.

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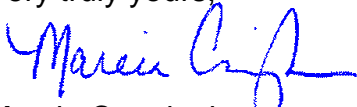
FISCAL IMPACT

The net county cost associated with this local drought emergency will be presented to your Board for consideration when additional information becomes available.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Chairman will sign the Resolution ratifying and continuing the existence of a local emergency for drought. The Board shall review, at least every 60 days or until such local emergency is terminated, the need for continuing the local emergency and shall proclaim the termination of such local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

Very truly yours,



Marcia Cunningham
Director, General Services

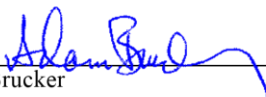
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Attachment: Proclamation of Local Emergency for Drought

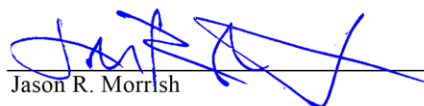
Cc: County Administrator
County Counsel
Board Clerk for 05/04/2021 Agenda

Reviewed by County Administrator's Office:

Reviewed by County Counsel's Office:


Adam Brucker

4/28/2021


Jason R. Morrish

4/28/2021

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION

R-21-49

Resolution Ratifying and Continuing the Proclamation of a Local Emergency for Drought

WHEREAS, California Government Code §8630 and San Joaquin County Ordinance 4-3005(A)(1) empower the Director of Emergency Services of the County of San Joaquin to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the county is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Board of Supervisors is not in session, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days; and

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within this county, caused by drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of San Joaquin did proclaim the existence of a local emergency within the county on April 27, 2021, at which time the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Joaquin was not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Joaquin finds that the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril did warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of the San Joaquin finds that these perilous conditions continue to exist and that the local emergency should be continued.

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES HEREBY ratify the existence of a local emergency caused by drought conditions within San Joaquin County as proclaimed by the Director of Emergency Services on April 27, 2021, and further approves the continuance of said local emergency for the next sixty (60) days, unless it is otherwise terminated or continued by the Board of Supervisors as allowed by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED May 4, 2021 , by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors, to wit:

AYES: **Villapudua, Miller, Rickman, Patti**

NOES: **None**

ABSENT: **Winn**

ABSTAIN: **None**

Tom Patti

ATTEST: RACHEL DEBORD
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Of the County of San Joaquin,
State of California

TOM PATTI
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin
State of California



Rachél DeBord

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR DROUGHT

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources is currently reporting that precipitation in the State is only 50% of average for the year, making 2020-21 the third driest year for California on record; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources snowpack monitoring division reports that the current snowpack is only 59% of normal for the year following a similarly dry year last year in which the snowpack was only 53% of normal; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources estimates that state-wide California reservoirs contain only half of their total capacity; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drought Monitor maintained by the United States National Oceanographic and Aeronautic Administration places 64% of the State of California in a drought condition, with 94% of the State in dry condition or worse; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board along with other state and federal agencies have informed farmers and the local agricultural related businesses to prepare for drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the drought is causing severe decreases to the local groundwater supplies which may lead to the failure of many public and private wells; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the need for the drilling of new wells and the availability of drilling contractors may cause homeowners and farmers to go an extended amount of time without water to their homes and crops while they wait for new wells to be drilled; and

WHEREAS, the drought has led to extreme fire conditions in several areas within the County; and

WHEREAS, substantial economic impact to agricultural crops, the industry that supports agriculture and the people who work in the agricultural industry are anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the long-term ramifications of the current drought will have a significant negative impact on San Joaquin County and pose a danger to the health and welfare of its residents and industries; and

WHEREAS, local resources are inadequate to cope with the effects of said emergency, and the combined forces of other political subdivisions of the State are required to assist the County to combat the effects of said emergency.

WHEREAS, farm workers throughout California who have already experienced reductions in unemployment benefits, child care benefits, and food assistance will be the hardest hit as the food basket of the world suffers from a third year of drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, San Joaquin County communities, already severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying economic downturn, will incur additional severe economic hardship related to lost agricultural production including businesses and citizens who depend upon a robust agricultural industry for their livelihood; and,

WHEREAS, San Joaquin County Ordinance 4-3005 (A)(l) empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when said County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the County Board of Supervisors is not in session; and,

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of San Joaquin does hereby find that on April 27, 2021, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the County due to drought; and,

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin County Director of Emergency Services finds that these emergency conditions will require immediate action including additional resources and funding; and,

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the San Joaquin Director of Emergency Services as follows:

1. That a local emergency exists throughout San Joaquin County pursuant to Government Code Section 8620 and as defined by Government Code section 8558 and shall be deemed to continue to exist subject to ratification, review, and termination by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Government Code Section 8630; and,
2. That the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors ratify the Proclamation of a Local Disaster by the Director of Emergency Services, based on the current drought conditions; and,
3. That the Board of Supervisors formally requests the Governor of the State of California to declare a state of emergency for the entire State or the directly drought affected counties, including San Joaquin County, due to severe drought conditions, and further request the Governor to issue such orders or directives to state agencies as may be necessary to immediately alleviate the impacts of the drought on agricultural producers, businesses and residents of the drought affected areas; and,
4. That a copy of this Proclamation be forwarded to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Director of CalOES), requesting that the Director of CalOES find this Proclamation acceptable in accordance with State law and forward this Proclamation to the Governor of the State of California for consideration, and action San Joaquin County's requests that the Governor suspend those statutes, regulations, rules,

and orders that may hinder response and recovery efforts.

5. The San Joaquin County Director of Emergency Services shall continue to assess the local emergency and, as emergency response and recovery efforts warrant, send to the Director of CalOES an additional request that the Governor suspend further statutes, rules, and regulations pursuant to Government Code section 8571, and that State and Federal assistance be provided to San Joaquin County.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this County; and that this emergency proclamation shall expire in 7 days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the governing body of the County of San Joaquin.

Dated: 04/27/2021

By: Marcia Cunningham
MARCIA CUNNINGHAM
Director of Emergency Services

San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services
2101 E. Earhart Avenue
Stockton, California 95206