BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER REGARDING TREE MORTALITY IN FRESNO COUNTY	RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO TREE MORTALITY AND DEGRADED FOREST CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, California's national parks and managed forests are important natural resources and tourist attractions for millions of visitors from California, the United States and around the world, and serve a significant role in the California economy; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of California's natural resources, including trees and forests, conservation of upper watershed areas, promotion of better air quality, the educational opportunities trees and forests offer, the promotion of tourism, and the creation of sustainable jobs are all in the best interest of the public; and

WHEREAS, due to years of inadequate precipitation and drought conditions, and increased insect infestation, trees on both public and private lands are dying at unprecedented rates, with tree mortality rates ranging between 20% and 90% in several areas of the state and encompassing several million acres of land statewide, including in national parks and managed forests; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented tree mortality disaster will adversely affect the watersheds that supply over half of the water used in California, dramatically increase the risk of large wildfires, diminish air quality, disrupt the food cycle, and result in increased mortality rates for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the tree mortality disaster in eastern Fresno County has contributed to recent devastating wildfires which have resulted in an adverse effect on our environment, economy, and public well-being; and

WHEREAS, present local, statewide, and federal resources are inadequate to address proper forest management, watershed protection, and the effects of this tree mortality disaster; and

WHEREAS, the timely removal of dead and dying trees on public and private lands is necessary in order to help protect and maintain watersheds and wildlife habitat, protect and restore forest resiliency, protect tourism and educational opportunities, and create jobs in rural communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that a Local Emergency exists throughout Fresno County and that said Local Emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors; and

///

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that the Governor of the State of California request a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for Fresno County; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that the State of California facilitate and support interagency coordination across local, state and federal levels to promote access to resources such as expertise, equipment and human resources that are necessary to remove, store (where appropriate) and dispose of dead and dying trees using economically and environmentally sustainable methods in order to restore forest and watershed health; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that the State of California coordinate with federal and local agencies to ensure that financial assistance is available to address immediate threats to public safety and to expand, develop and make available financial tools for public lands, property owners and businesses to develop capacity to reduce and manage these threats; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Proclamation be forwarded to the Governor of California and State Director of the Office of Emergency Services; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrative Officer, acting as the Director of the Office of Emergency Services, hereby designate a representative of the County of Fresno authorized for the purpose of, but not limited to, assessing damage, consulting with federal and/or state survey teams regarding hazard mitigation actions, processing and coordination of all inquiries necessary to obtain financial and human resources available for state and federal assistance.

THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 24th day of June, 2025, to-wit:

AYES: Supervisors Bredefeld, Chavez, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

Ernest Buddy Mendes, Chairman of the
Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno

ATTEST:
Bernice E. Seidel
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Fresno, State of California

By: _____
Deputy