

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF  
RATIFYING THE DECLARATION OF A  
LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE BEET  
LEAFHOPPER AND BEET CURLY TOP  
VIRUS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code, section 8630, et. seq.) establishes procedures for proclaiming emergencies and for responding promptly to the needs that arise during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, under section 2.44.050 of the Fresno County Ordinance Code, the County Administrative Officer is authorized as the Director of Emergency Services of the County; and

WHEREAS, section 2.44.060 of the Fresno County Ordinance Code and section 8630 of the Government Code empower the County Administrative Officer acting as the Director of Emergency Services of the County to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County is affected by or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services of the County did find and declare that a disaster, which can severely impair public security of an important food product, is created by conditions of extreme peril to the processing and fresh tomato crop and is imminent within Fresno County, due to the beet leafhopper (BLH), the vector of beet curly top virus (BCTV), a disease known to cause serious damage to tomato crops. California is the largest producer of tomatoes in the United States. Fresno County is a top producer of processing tomatoes and a significant producer of fresh tomatoes; and

WHEREAS, BCTV stunts young plants and can result in complete loss in heavily infected fields. About 50% of the total fresh market and processing tomato acreage in the San Joaquin Valley is at risk of infection in years when insect and virus pressure are high; and

1           WHEREAS, processing tomatoes are grown annually in California on approximately  
2 228,000 acres, including 64,400 acres in Fresno County in 2024, representing a production  
3 value of \$429,400,000; and

4           WHEREAS, commercial tomato growers heavily rely on neonicotinoids to combat the  
5 BLH and the BCTV, as no effective alternatives exist. Without effective control of the BLH,  
6 damage to affected tomato crops in Fresno County could be as high as 70% to 90%; and

7           WHEREAS, the full scope of damage of the BLH in Fresno County cannot reasonably  
8 be determined at this time but can be mitigated in part if immediate action is taken on an  
9 emergency basis, as stated below; and

10           WHEREAS, the use of neonicotinoids on certain crops is restricted under Title 3,  
11 California Code of Regulations, section 6990, effective January 1, 2024, an exemption in  
12 section 6990(c)(2) allows their application during a local emergency declared under  
13 Government Code section 8630. Under this exemption, property owners must obtain written  
14 recommendations from a licensed pest control advisor and retain records of the application for  
15 at least two years; and

16           WHEREAS, the Fresno County Director of Emergency Services, after consulting with  
17 the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner, has determined that the BLH is imminent; and

18           WHEREAS, on April 1, 2026, the Fresno County Office of Emergency Services was  
19 informed of the emergency.

20           NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists  
21 concerning the threat of tomato crop failure as a result of the imminent infestation of the BLH  
22 in Fresno County; and

23           IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said  
24 local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties for the emergency organization of this  
25 County shall be those prescribed by state law, ordinances and resolutions of this County, and  
26 by the Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, as approved by the  
27 Board; and

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Director of Emergency Services shall take appropriate  
2 steps to notify the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services of this Proclamation  
3 and of the steps taken hereunder to address this local emergency; and

4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED this Proclamation of Local Emergency is in effect for sixty  
5 (60) days from the date of Board ratification, if given, after which the need for the local  
6 emergency herein shall be reviewed by the County Administrative Officer, acting as the  
7 Director of Emergency Services, and the Board to determine whether to continue the local  
8 emergency herein or to terminate it; and

9 CEQA EXEMPTION: this Proclamation of Local Emergency and the application of  
10 neonicotinoid pesticides hereunder are hereby declared to be exempt from the provisions of  
11 the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the provisions of the CEQA  
12 Guidelines, section 15269, which provides an exemption for emergency projects.

13 THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of  
14 Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 7th day of April, 2026 to wit:

15  
16 AYES: Supervisors Bredefeld, Chavez, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco

17 NOES: None

18 ABSENT: None

19 ABSTAINED: None

20   
\_\_\_\_\_

21 Garry Bredefeld, Chairman of the Board of  
22 Supervisors of the County of Fresno

23  
24 ATTEST:  
25 BERNICE E. SEIDEL  
26 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
27 County of Fresno, State of California

28 By:   
\_\_\_\_\_ Deputy