

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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4 IN THE MATTER REGARDING TREE)
5 MORTALITY IN FRESNO COUNTY)

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL
EMERGENCY DUE TO TREE
MORTALITY AND DEGRADED
FOREST CONDITIONS

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10 **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

11 **WHEREAS**, the preservation of California's natural resources, including trees and forests,
12 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
13 of the public; and

14 **WHEREAS**, due to four years of inadequate precipitation and drought conditions, and increased
15 insect infestation, trees on both public and private lands are dying at unprecedented rates, with tree
mortality rates ranging between 20% and 85% in several areas of the state and encompassing several
16 million acres of land statewide, including in national parks and managed forests; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the unprecedented tree mortality disaster will adversely affect the watersheds that
18 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

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

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

23 **WHEREAS**, the timely removal of dead and dying trees on public lands and other areas is
24 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.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors that a Local
26 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

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

28 **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

1 appropriate) and dispose of dead and dying trees using economically and environmentally sustainable
2 methods in order to restore forest and watershed health; and

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

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

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

14 **THE FOREGOING** was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of
15 the County of Fresno this 10th day of January, 2017, to-wit:

16 AYES: Supervisors Borgeas, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco, Quintero
17 NOES: None
18 ABSENT: None



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20 CHAIRMAN, Board of Supervisors

21 ATTEST:
22 BERNICE E. SEIDEL
23 Clerk, Board of Supervisors

24 By Susan Bishop
25 Deputy