

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE LOCAL
EMERGENCY DUE TO THE MIGRATION OF
THE BEET LEAFHOPPER IN FRESNO
COUNTY

RESOLUTION EXTENDING AND
TERMINATING A LOCAL EMERGENCY

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 if the Board of Supervisors (Board) 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, continues to be created by conditions of extreme peril to the processing and fresh tomato crop 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 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 be
8 determined at this time but can be mitigated in part if immediate action continues to be taken on
9 an 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; however, an exemption
12 in section 6990(c)(2) allows their application during a local emergency declared under
13 Government Code, section 8630. Under this exemption, commercial tomato growers must
14 obtain written recommendations from a licensed pest control advisor and retain records of the
15 application for at least two (2) years; and

16 WHEREAS, the Fresno County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local
17 emergency on April 1, 2026; and

18 WHEREAS, on April 7, 2026, the Board ratified the proclamation by the Director of
19 Emergency Services and adopted a resolution proclaiming the local emergency status; and

20 WHEREAS, on June 2, 2026, the Board proclaimed and further ratified the continuation
21 of the local emergency; and

22 WHEREAS, the Fresno County Director of Emergency Services, after consulting with the
23 Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner, has determined that the BLH is still present in
24 Fresno County and continues to present a danger to all tomato crops in the County through July
25 31, 2026, including, for example, due to late season plantings of both fresh market and
26 processing tomatoes.

27 NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Board that after considering
28 such information, include such information provided by the Director of Emergency Services, the

1 Board has reviewed the need for continuing the local emergency, and said local emergency is
2 extended through July 31, 2026; and

3 IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED by the Board that, based on such
4 conditions, said local emergency shall terminate August 1, 2026; and

5 IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local
6 emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this County
7 shall be those prescribed by state law, ordinances and resolutions of this County, and by the
8 Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, as approved by the Board
9 and under this resolution; and

10 IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED by the Board that, nothing in this
11 Resolution shall operate, or be interpreted, to preclude or otherwise limit (a) the Fresno County
12 Director of Emergency Services, after consulting with the Fresno County Agricultural
13 Commissioner, from proclaiming the resumed existence of a local emergency in Fresno County
14 if the County is further affected by or likely to be further affected by the BLH, the vector of
15 BCTV, as a public calamity, if the Board is not in session, or (b) the Board from ratifying such
16 proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services, or adopting a resolution proclaiming such
17 resumed local emergency status in Fresno County; and

18 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Director of Emergency Services shall take appropriate
19 steps to continue to notify the State office of Emergency Services of this Proclamation and of
20 the steps taken hereunder to address this local emergency.

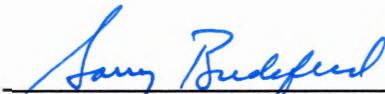
1 THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of
2 Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 14th day of July, 2026, to-wit:

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

4 NOES: None

5 ABSENT: None

6 ABSTAINED: None

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9 
10 Garry Bredefeld, Chairman of the
11 Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno

12
13 **ATTEST:**
14 Bernice E. Seidel
15 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Fresno, State of California

16
17 By: 
18 Deputy