

**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 four 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 85% 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 lands and other areas 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

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