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1 WHEREAS, processing tomatoes are grown annually in California on approximately
2 235,000 acres, including 67,750 acres in Fresno County in 2023, representing a production value
3 of \$503,937,000; and

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

7 WHEREAS, the use of neonicotinoids on certain crops is restricted under 3 CCR section
8 6990, effective January 1, 2024, an exemption in section 6990(c)(2) allows their application during
9 a local emergency declared under Government Code section 8630. Under this exemption,
10 commercial tomato growers must obtain written recommendations from a licensed pest control
11 advisor and retain records of the application for at least two years; and

12 WHEREAS, large and alarming numbers of the BLH have been very recently observed in
13 tomato farms in Fresno County; and

14 WHEREAS, the number of BLH detected in Fresno County is rapidly increasing; and

15 WHEREAS, the BCTV has already been detected in tomato plants in Fresno County; and

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

19 WHEREAS, the Fresno County Emergency Services Director, after consulting with the
20 Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner, has determined that the BLH threat is an imminent and
21 present danger with the potential to cause serious damage and disease in Fresno County.

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

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

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Emergency Services Coordinator shall take appropriate
2 steps to notify the State Office of Emergency Services of this Proclamation and of the steps taken
3 hereunder to address this local emergency; and

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

9 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be
10 forwarded to the State Director of the Office of Emergency Services; and

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

15 This Proclamation of Local Emergency is proclaimed in the County of Fresno, State of
16 California, on the 2nd day of April, 2025, to-wit:

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19 FOR Paul Nerland
20 County Administrative Officer /
21 Director of Emergency Services of the County
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