



Board Agenda Item 27

DATE: March 7, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Jean M. Rousseau, County Administrative Officer / Emergency Services Director

SUBJECT: Continuation of the 2017 Drought Conditions Local Emergency Status in Fresno County

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Adopt Resolution proclaiming continuation of the local emergency status as a result of the 2017 Drought Conditions.

Approval of the recommended action will ensure the local emergency status remains in effect and permit the potential recovery of eligible costs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

No viable options are available.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommended action is necessary to ensure specific liability protection, emergency powers of the Emergency Services Director, and potential recovery of eligible costs, if any, from State and Federal emergency funds.

DISCUSSION:

On September 19, 2014, the Governor issued Executive Order B-26-14, which authorized the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide California Disaster Assistance Act funding for local government assistance to provide emergency water supplies to households without water for drinking and sanitation purposes.

As authorized by California Government Code, section 8630(c) and Fresno County Ordinance Code, Chapter 2.44.060, on March 24, 2015, your Board proclaimed the existence of a local emergency and continued support of the 2014 Governor's Proclamation declaring a state of emergency in the State due to historically unprecedented drought conditions. Your Board requested the Governor make available any and all State assistance programs and seek additional Federal assistance programs to provide relief to the individuals, growers, businesses, public agencies and private organizations that were harmed by the drought.

On April 7, 2015, your Board passed a proclamation that was later amended on May 5, 2015. Since May 5, 2015, your Board has continued to adopt a resolution of continuation of a local emergency in the County and made a request for the Governor to take even more stringent actions to be directed at reducing the state's water consumption by imposing curtailments on water supplies currently dedicated to the environment and fishery habitat that are comparable to those now being mandated and burdening urban and agricultural contractors and users.

Severe drought conditions including reduced availability of municipal, agricultural, and industrial water supplies, extreme fire conditions, loss of jobs, and reduced agricultural production continue to impact Fresno County. Approval of the recommended action will ensure that the local emergency status remains in effect and permit the potential recovery of eligible costs.

Of California's total developed water supply of 82.5 million acre-feet, 47.8% is being made available to environmental purposes, 41.5% is designated for agricultural uses and 10.8% is allocated to urban uses.

Fresno County Ordinance Code, Chapter 2.44.060, amended on May 19, 2015, requires your Board to review the need to continue the local emergency at least once every 30 days until terminated; state law requires the same. The local emergency must be terminated at the earliest possible date when conditions warranting proclamation have ended.

Even with the recent storms, the local emergency continues as the County deals with the effects of the drought. The County has programs, such as the tree mortality and temporary water tank program, which are related to the impact of the drought.

As additional information becomes available staff will provide further recommendation for your Board's action.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

Proclamation of Continuation of Local Emergency:

BAI #19, February 7, 2017; BAI #24, January 10, 2017; BAI #23, December 13, 2016; BAI #23, November 15, 2016; BAI #23, November 1, 2016; BAI #30, October 11, 2016, BAI #40, September 13, 2016; #35, August 23, 2016; #30, August 9, 2016; #33, July 12, 2016; #26, June 21, 2016; #28, June 7, 2016; #43, May 10, 2016; #24, April 12, 2016; #33, March 15, 2016; #32, March 1, 2016; #26, February 9, 2016; #18, January 12, 2016; #22, December 15, 2015; #30, November 17, 2015; #13, November 3, 2015; #21, October 13, 2015; #27, September 22, 2015; #17, September 1, 2015; #26, August 11, 2015; #31, July 14, 2015; #29, April 7, 2015; #4, March 24, 2015

BAI #9, May 19, 2015 - Amendment to Fresno County Ordinance Code Chapter 2.44.060

BAI #35, May 5, 2015 - Amended Proclamation of Continuation of a Local Emergency, 15-095

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - Resolution

CAO ANALYST:

Sonia De La Rosa