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2 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
3 COUNTY OF FRESNO
4 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

5 IN THE MATTER REGARDING TREE
6 MORTALITY IN FRESNO COUNTY

7 RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE
8 EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL
9 EMERGENCY DUE TO TREE
10 MORTALITY AND DEGRADED
11 FOREST CONDITIONS

12 WHEREAS, California's national parks and managed forests are important natural
13 resources and tourist attractions for millions of visitors from California, the United States and
14 around the world, and serve a significant role in the California economy; and

15 WHEREAS, the preservation of California's natural resources, including trees and
16 forests, conservation of upper watershed areas, promotion of better air quality, the educational
17 opportunities trees and forests offer, the promotion of tourism, and the creation of sustainable
18 jobs are all in the best interest of the public; and

19 WHEREAS, due to years of inadequate precipitation and drought conditions, and
20 increased insect infestation, trees on both public and private lands are dying at unprecedented
21 rates, with tree mortality rates ranging between 20% and 90% in several areas of the state and
22 encompassing several million acres of land statewide, including in national parks and managed
23 forests; and

24 WHEREAS, the unprecedented tree mortality disaster will adversely affect the
25 watersheds that supply over half of the water used in California, dramatically increase the risk of
26 large wildfires, diminish air quality, disrupt the food cycle, and result in increased mortality rates
27 for wildlife; and

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

31 WHEREAS, present local, statewide, and federal resources are inadequate to address
32 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 and private lands 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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1 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that the Governor of the State of
2 California request a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for Fresno County; and

3 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that the State of California facilitate
4 and support interagency coordination across local, state and federal levels to promote access to
5 resources such as expertise, equipment and human resources that are necessary to remove,
6 store (where appropriate) and dispose of dead and dying trees using economically and
7 environmentally sustainable methods in order to restore forest and watershed health; and

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

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

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

21 THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of
22 Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 21st day of April, 2026, to-wit:

23 AYES:

24 NOES:

25 ABSENT:

26 ABSTAINED:

27 _____
28 Garry Bredefeld, Chairman of the
29 Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno

30 ATTEST:

31 Bernice E. Seidel
32 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Fresno, State of California

By: _____

Deputy