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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, present local, statewide, and federal resources are inadequate to address  
28 proper forest management, watershed protection, and the effects of this tree mortality disaster;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, the timely removal of dead and dying trees on public and private lands is  
31 necessary in order to help protect and maintain watersheds and wildlife habitat, protect and  
32 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 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