

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING THE
CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL
EMERGENCY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8630, *et seq.*) establishes procedures for proclaiming emergencies and for responding promptly to the needs that arise during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, under section 2.44.050 of the Fresno County Ordinance Code, the County Administrative Officer is authorized as the Director of Emergency Services of the County; and

WHEREAS, section 2.44.060 of the Fresno County Ordinance Code and section 8630 of the Government Code empower the County Administrative Officer, acting as the Director of Emergency Services of the County, to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County is affected by or likely to be affected by a public calamity if the Board of Supervisors (Board) is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services of the County did find and declare that a disaster, which can severely impair public security of an important food product, continues to be created by conditions of extreme peril to the processing and fresh tomato crop within Fresno County, due to the Beet Leafhopper (BLH), the vector of Beet Curly Top Virus (BCTV), a disease known to cause serious damage to tomato crops. California is the largest producer of processing tomatoes and a significant producer of fresh tomatoes; and

WHEREAS, BCTV stunts young plants and can result in complete loss in heavily infected fields. About 50% of the total fresh market and processing tomato acreage in the San Joaquin Valley is at risk of infection in years when insect and virus pressure are high; and

1 WHEREAS, processing tomatoes are grown annually in California on approximately
2 228,000 acres, including 64,400 acres in Fresno County in 2024, representing a production
3 value of \$429,400,000; and

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

7 WHEREAS, the full scope of damage of the BLH in Fresno County cannot reasonably be
8 determined at this time but can be mitigated in part if immediate action continues to be taken on
9 an emergency basis, as stated below; and

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

16 WHEREAS, the Fresno County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local
17 emergency on April 1, 2026; and

18 WHEREAS, on April 7, 2026, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno ratified
19 the proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services and adopted a resolution proclaiming
20 the local emergency status; and

21 WHEREAS, the Fresno County Director of Emergency Services, after consulting with the
22 Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner, has determined that the BLH is still present in
23 Fresno County and continues to present a danger to all tomato crops in the County.

24 NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Board that a local emergency
25 continues to exist throughout Fresno County and that the local emergency shall continue to be
26 in effect for sixty (60) days pursuant to Government Code, section 8630, after which the need
27 for the local emergency shall be reviewed by the Director of Emergency Services, and the
28 Board, to determine whether to continue the local emergency or to terminate it; and

1 IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local
2 emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this County
3 shall be those prescribed by state law, ordinances and resolutions of this County, and by the
4 Fresno County Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, as approved by the Board
5 and under this resolution; and

6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Director of Emergency Services shall take appropriate
7 steps to continue to notify the State Office of Emergency Services of this Proclamation and of
8 the steps taken hereunder to address this local emergency.

9 THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of
10 Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 2nd day of June, 2026, to-wit:

11 AYES:

12 NOES:

13 ABSENT:

14 ABSTAINED:

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18 Garry Bredefeld, Chairman of the
19 Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno

20
21 **ATTEST:**
22 Bernice E. Seidel
23 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
24 County of Fresno, State of California

25 By: _____
26 Deputy