RESOLUTION NO. 24-109

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARING THE CONTINUATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO TREE MORTALITY

WHEREAS, the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) conducted investigation and found that many of the common conifer species throughout Mendocino County are experiencing bark beetle decline and mortality, including Douglas fir, grey pine, sugar pine as well as species found on the Mendocino Coast; and

WHEREAS, Sudden Oak Death was first reported in 1995 in central coastal California and is reported by USDA as widespread in coastal California; and

WHEREAS, UCANR has observed ponderosa pine mortality from northern Mendocino to northern Napa—signaling the early stages of western pine beetle outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Bishop pine forests along the coast of Mendocino are experiencing significant declines due to a multitude of issues (e.g. change in land-use, absence of fire as a disturbance, native and invasive insects and diseases); and

WHEREAS, invasive species are an ever increasing concern and can have considerable ecological impacts on forestlands; and

WHEREAS, persistent and severe drought conditions in the past few years are worsening already widespread forest health issues and resulting in new insect and disease outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, this unprecedented tree mortality will dramatically increase the risk of large wildfires, diminish air quality, and result in increased mortality rates for wildfire; and

WHEREAS, removal of dead and dying trees is necessary to public health and safety, protect and maintain watersheds and wildlife habitat, protect and restore forest resiliency, and protect the continued economic development through tourism and the creation of jobs; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8630 empowers the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County is threatened or likely to be threatened by the conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property that are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this County; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2022, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed the existence of a local emergency due to tree mortality, finding that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property presently exist in Mendocino County, caused by widespread and rapidly increasing incidence of tree mortality, and the magnitude of this tree mortality represents a threat that is beyond the capacity of County resources such that assistance is required from both State and Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that the aforesaid conditions and the breadth of the peril in the County and its residents face continue to exist; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8630(c) provides that the Board of Supervisors shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every sixty (60) days until the governing body terminates the local emergency; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County Code section 7.04.090 provides that the Board of Supervisors shall review the need for continuing the local emergency, but that in no event shall review take place more than thirty (30) days after the previous review.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors finds that a local emergency due to tree mortality continues to exist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is issued pursuant to the California Emergency Act (Government Code section 8550, et seq.), and it is proclaimed and ordered that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of Mendocino County shall be those prescribed by state and local law, County resolutions, and the County of Mendocino Emergency Operations Plans, as approved by the Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors encourage any State and Federal funding to assist with replanting of trees and supporting healthy forests and watersheds, as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors hereby designate Darcie Antle, having the titles of the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Emergency Services, as the authorized representative of public and individual assistance of the County of Mendocino for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available State and Federal Assistance.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor Haschak, seconded by Supervisor Gjerde, and carried this 9th day of July, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors McGourty, Mulheren, Haschak, and Gjerde
NOES: Supervisor Williams
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: DARCIE ANTLE
Clerk of the Board

Deputy

Maureen Mulheren
MAUREEN MULHEREN, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

BY: DARCIE ANTLE
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CHARLOTTE E. SCOTT
County Counsel

Charlotte Scott

Deputy