

RESOLUTION NO. 21-051

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT THREAT OF DISASTER DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8558 and Mendocino County Code section 7.04.030 provide that a local emergency means the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by conditions including drought; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8630 provides that a local emergency may be proclaimed only by the governing body of a city, county, or city and county, or by an official designated by ordinance adopted by that governing body; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2021, United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") Secretary Tom Vilsack designated 50 of California's counties, including Mendocino County, as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought, which allows for farm operations to be eligible for certain assistance available through the USDA Farm Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, rainfall totals are lower than average throughout Mendocino County, including that Ukiah has received only 40% of its average rainfall as of April 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, information available from Sonoma Water regarding the water levels of Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino show that both reservoirs have water levels drastically below target storage levels, with Lake Pillsbury at 56.8% of the target water supply curve and Lake Mendocino at 44.2% of the target water supply curve as of early April; and

WHEREAS, the reservoir capacities of Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino are far below that of the 2013/2014 drought year; and

WHEREAS, Ukiah Valley vintners and farmers depend on water from Lake Mendocino for frost protection and watering of livestock, and, given the critically low levels of Lake Mendocino, water supply for these purposes is short, placing the local economy in a state of dire emergency if water runs out; and

WHEREAS, the entire economy of Mendocino County is placed in great jeopardy because of the current water shortage due to its dependence on Lake Mendocino and Russian River water allocations, and must act proactively to prevent an imminent disaster; and

WHEREAS, the adverse environmental, economic, and social impacts of the drought pose an imminent threat of disaster and threaten to cause widespread harm to people, businesses, property, communities, wildlife and recreation in Mendocino County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors declares as follows:

1. Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within Mendocino County due to drought conditions.

2. As a consequence of said conditions and pursuant to Government Code section 8630 a local emergency now exists throughout Mendocino County as a result of the drought conditions.
3. During this local emergency the powers, functions and duties of the Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer and the emergency organization of Mendocino County shall be those prescribed by State law, and the ordinances, resolutions and approved emergency services plans of the County of Mendocino.
4. This resolution shall be submitted to the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting a Director's Concurrence and to the Governor requesting a State declaration of emergency due to the given impacts as well as making California Disaster Assistance and all applicable state funding and resources available to the County.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Haschak, and carried this 20th day of April, 2021, by the following vote:

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

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

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

DAN GJERDE, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Deputy

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CHRISTIAN M. CURTIS
County Counsel

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

Deputy