

**PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF LOCAL
EMERGENCY BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL)
EMERGENCY DUE TO EXTREME)
DROUGHT CONDITIONS)

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-0090

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors does hereby find that a dire situation exists due to "Extreme Drought" conditions as reported by the Federal Drought Monitor, which are anticipated to cause water shortages and severe property and economic losses within Tulare County;

WHEREAS, California's precipitation and snowpack for the season is under 25% of the normal rate, making 2013 the driest year on record;

WHEREAS, the primary industry of Tulare County is agriculture and any economic impact on this industry will have a cascading effect on the local economy;

WHEREAS, water allocations for agriculture have reached only a fraction of contracted rates and necessary levels, which will lead to a decrease in agricultural production;

WHEREAS, growers will be forced to continue to overdraft groundwater supplies and incur significant costs to dig new wells in order to keep mature permanent crops alive;

WHEREAS, a significant backlog exists to drill new wells, therefore many needing new wells to obtain groundwater may be unable to afford them or obtain them in a timely manner;

WHEREAS, some mature permanent crops will be fallowed, resulting in a long-term loss of production and requiring significant reinvestment of private resources to regrow when drought conditions cease;

WHEREAS, decreased agricultural production will lead to higher unemployment and demand for government services;

WHEREAS, long-term forecasts indicate no relief of the current drought conditions, and suggest a warmer-than-average summer, resulting in increased domestic demand for water;

WHEREAS, public and private drinking water supplies continue to be threatened due to decreasing supplies of groundwater caused by the precipitation deficit and an extended state of groundwater overdraft;

WHEREAS, the State of California may experience power shortages due to decreased hydroelectric power generation capability as a result of drought, which present a significant hazard to residents during periods of excessive heat common in Tulare County during the summer;

WHEREAS, the long-term ramifications of the current drought will have a significant impact on Tulare County and pose a danger to health and welfare of its residents, livestock, and agriculture.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout Tulare County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of Tulare County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of Tulare County, and by the Tulare County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors; and

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the Governor and California Department of Water Resources promote and facilitate water transfers and exchanges within California and Tulare County to minimize potential damage to existing crops; and

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the Governor and California Department of Water Resources develop programs and measures to deliver additional emergency water supplies to Tulare County; and

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the Governor make available California Disaster Assistance Act funding for the State of Emergency proclaimed on January 17, 2014, and seek all available forms of Federal assistance, to include a Presidential Declaration of Emergency and Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs as applicable; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the State Director of the Office of Emergency Services.

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR ISHIDA, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR VANDER POEL, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 4, 2014, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: SUPERVISORS ISHIDA, VANDER POEL, COX, WORTHLEY
AND ENNIS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE



ATTEST: JEAN ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: *Jean Rousseau*
Deputy Clerk