

**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 ) Resolution No. 2015-0850  
WIDESPREAD AND INCREASING TREE )  
MORTALITY IN TULARE COUNTY )**

WHEREAS, California's forests are important natural resources and tourist attractions for Californians and visitors throughout the United States and the world, and serve an important role in the California economy; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of California's natural resources, including trees and forests, watershed areas, and air quality directly impact public health; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of tourism and the creation of sustainable jobs are in the best interest of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen in Tulare County, caused by widespread and rapidly increasing incidence of tree mortality which commenced on or about April 2013; and

WHEREAS, this unprecedented tree mortality disaster will adversely affect the watersheds that supply nearly two-thirds of the water used in California, and dramatically increase the risk of large wildfires, diminish air quality, and result in increased mortality rates for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, data collected by federal agencies demonstrate that tree mortality in the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests and Wilderness areas is common and severe at almost all lower elevations, which are closer to more populated areas, and that the number of trees killed on these two forests exceeds 5 million; and

WHEREAS, areas identified by the federal agencies with severe tree mortality have been involved in the Rough Fire which has burned over 151,000 acres and resulted in road closures, National Park and Forest closures, evacuation orders, air quality alerts, and over an estimated \$100 million in direct firefighting costs in addition to unidentified costs to local economies; and

WHEREAS, existing passive management, restrictions on fuels reduction, and limitations on timber exports on public lands has led to overgrowth and, exacerbated by drought and insect infestation, the existing dangerous conditions; and

WHEREAS, present local, State, and Federal resources are inadequate to cope with the effects of this tree mortality disaster; and

WHEREAS, the timely removal of dead and dying trees on public lands and other areas is necessary in order to help protect and maintain watersheds and wildlife habitat, protect and restore forest resiliency, protect public health and safety, protect tourism, and create and sustain jobs; and

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

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this proclamation is issued pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with California Government Code section 8550; 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 proclaim a State of Emergency in Tulare County and other afflicted areas of the State; and

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the Governor seek designation of tree mortality areas within Tulare County and other afflicted areas of the State under Section 8204 of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (insect and disease areas) and seek additional Federal program support; and

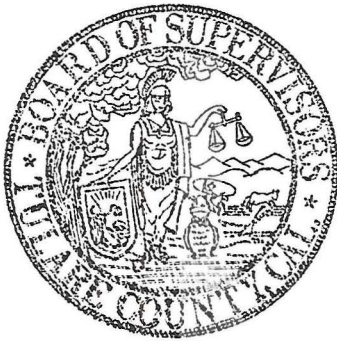
IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the Governor request a Presidential Declaration of Emergency or Major Disaster for this emergency; and

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the Governor make available any and all State assistance programs, including California Disaster Assistance Act assistance, and seek additional Federal assistance programs, including Robert T. Stafford Act assistance, to provide relief to the public agencies and private individuals that have been or will be harmed by this emergency; 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 OCTOBER 6, 2015, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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



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

BY: *Daniel A. Ybana*  
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

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