

PROCLAMATION OF CONTINUATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
BY THE FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-20

IN THE MATTER OF THE)

2015 DROUGHT CONDITIONS)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a local emergency presently exists in the County of Fresno in accordance with the proclamation thereof by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno on the 24th day of March, 2015 as a result of a crippling disaster, which severely impaired public health and public safety, created by conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property which have arisen within said County caused by a statewide drought commencing in 2012; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2014, the Governor proclaimed a statewide emergency due to unprecedented drought conditions in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2014 the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in support of the Governor's proclamation; and

WHEREAS, on the 24th day of March, 2015, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency and requested the Governor of California make available any and all State assistance programs and seek additional Federal assistance programs to provide relief to the individuals, growers, businesses, public agencies and private agencies that were harmed by this disaster; as a result of local resources being inadequate to cope with the effects of said emergency; and the combined forces of the other political subdivisions of the State were required to assist the County to combat the effects of said emergency ; and

WHEREAS, on the 19th day of September, 2014, the Governor issued Executive Order (EO) B-26-14 authorizing the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide California Disaster Assistance Act funding, as deemed appropriate, for local government assistance to provide emergency water supplies to households without water for drinking and sanitation purposes: and

WHEREAS, on the 27th day of March, 2015, the Governor signed emergency legislation - AB 91 and AB 92 – that fast-tracks more than \$1 billion in funding for drought relief and critical water infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, this Board appreciates the Governor's efforts to deal with this statewide emergency and crisis; and

WHEREAS, said emergency has continued and escalated in cumulated impact on this County; and

WHEREAS, local and statewide resources continue to be inadequate to cope with the effects of said emergency; and

WHEREAS, of California's total developed water supply of 82.5 million acre-feet, 47.8% is being made available to environmental purposes, 41.5% is designated for agricultural uses and 10.8% is allocated to urban uses; and

WHEREAS, all beneficial uses and users within California have been curtailed – in part or in whole – by the State Water Board or local and regional allocation and entitlement decisions in response to the drought; and

WHEREAS, On average, agricultural water supplies between Redding and Bakersfield have been reduced by 70%, with 31% of California's irrigated farmland, or 2,831,000 acres, receiving zero water supply allocations; and 52.8% of the state's irrigated farmland receiving 20% or less of normal surface water supplies; and

WHEREAS, water made available by the State of California for environmental purposes has remained unregulated and, in many cases, has resulted in urban and agricultural users losing potential water supplies to keep environmental uses "whole"; and

WHEREAS, 2015 is the second consecutive year in which Central Valley Project contractors within Fresno County have endured zero water supply allocations, which agricultural contractors and users are being most negatively affected; and

WHEREAS, that these circumstances compel Fresno County to request the Governor to take even more stringent actions to be directed at reducing the state's water consumption by imposing curtailments water supplies currently dedicated to the environment and fishery habitat that are comparable to those now being mandated and burdening urban and agricultural contractors and users; and

NOW THEREFORE, THE FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS POLICY BOARD RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS: that the Governor be requested to direct the State Water Board to take action making changes in Delta water operations necessary to provide additional water supplies for urban and agricultural users; and That the Governor be requested to meet and confer with the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Commerce to exercise the greatest possible flexibility in biological opinions regulating operations affecting endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act; and

That the Governor be requested to be supportive of Congressional legislative efforts being undertaken by Senator Feinstein to enact federal drought legislation that would benefit water supply availability in Fresno County and the San Joaquin Valley; and

That the Governor be requested to notify the Fresno Council of Governments of any and all actions, orders, negotiations and discussions undertaken on behalf of advancing the points enumerated above; and

That the Governor be requested to continue to make available any and all State assistance programs and seek additional Federal assistance programs to provide relief to the individuals, growers, businesses, public agencies, and private agencies that were harmed by this disaster; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of California, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Director of the State Office of Emergency Services.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board that said local emergency continues to exist in the County of Fresno and that this county remains at "Ground Zero" for the state's most serious economic and social water supply reduction impacts.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the Fresno Council of Governments this 28th day of May, 2015.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Signed: _____

ATTEST:

Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Chair

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution of the Fresno Council of Governments duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the 28th day of May, 2015.

Signed: _____

Tony Boren, Executive Director