

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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4 IN THE MATTER REGARDING TREE)
5 MORTALITY IN FRESNO COUNTY)

RESOLUTION DECLARING
THE EXISTENCE OF A
LOCAL EMERGENCY AND
REQUESTING THE
GOVERNOR TO DECLARE
A STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN CALIFORNIA DUE TO
TREE MORTALITY AND
DEGRADED FOREST
CONDITIONS

9 **WHEREAS**, California's national parks and managed forests are important natural resources and
10 tourist attractions for millions of visitors from California, the United States and around the world, and serve
11 an important role in the California economy; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the preservation of California's natural resources, including trees and forests,
13 conservation of upper watershed areas, promotion of better air quality, the educational opportunities trees
14 and forests offer, the promotion of tourism, and the creation of sustainable jobs are all in the best interest
15 of the public; and

16 **WHEREAS**, due to four years of inadequate precipitation and drought conditions, and increased
17 insect infestation, trees on both public and private lands are dying at unprecedented rates, with tree
18 mortality rates ranging between 20% and 85% in several areas of the state and encompassing several
19 million acres of land statewide, including in national parks and managed forests; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the unprecedented tree mortality disaster will adversely affect the watersheds that
21 supply over half of the water used in California, dramatically increase the risk of large wildfires, diminish
22 air quality, disrupt the food cycle, and result in increased mortality rates for wildlife; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the tree mortality disaster in eastern Fresno County has contributed to recent
24 devastating wildfires which have resulted in an adverse effect on our environment, economy, and public
25 well-being; and

26 **WHEREAS**, present local, statewide, and federal resources are inadequate to address proper
27 forest management, watershed protection, and the effects of this tree mortality disaster; and

28 **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 tourism and educational opportunities, and create jobs in rural communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that a Local
Emergency exists throughout Fresno County and that said Local Emergency shall be deemed to continue
to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that the Governor of the State of California find
and proclaim Fresno County to be in a State of Emergency and that he request a Presidential Declaration
of Emergency for Fresno County; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED that the State of California facilitate and
support interagency coordination across local, state and federal levels to promote access to resources

1 such as expertise, equipment and human resources that are necessary to remove, store (where
2 appropriate) and dispose of dead and dying trees using economically and environmentally sustainable
3 methods in order to restore forest and watershed health; and

4 **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND REQUESTED** that the State of California coordinate with
5 federal and local agencies to ensure that financial assistance is available to address immediate threats to
6 public safety and to expand, develop and make available financial tools for public lands, property owners
7 and businesses to develop capacity to reduce and manage these threats; and

8 **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Declaration be forwarded to the Governor of
9 California and State Director of the Office of Emergency Services; and


10 **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Administrative Officer, acting as Director of the
11 Office of Emergency Services, hereby designate a representative of the County of Fresno authorized for
12 the purpose of, but not limited to, assessing damage, consulting with federal and/or state survey teams
13 regarding hazard mitigation actions, processing and coordination of all inquiries necessary to obtain
14 financial and human resources available for state and federal assistance.

15 **THE FOREGOING** was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of
16 the County of Fresno this 22nd day of September, 2015, to-wit:

17 AYES: Supervisors Borgeas, Mendes, Pacheco, Perea, Poochigian
18 NOES: None
19 ABSENT: None

20 
21 CHAIRMAN, Board of Supervisors

22 ATTEST:
23 BERNICE E. SEIDEL
24 Clerk, Board of Supervisors

25 By 
26 Deputy