

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SISKIYOU TO PROCLAIM THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO DROUGHT

WHEREAS, annual water supplies available for agriculture, homes and municipalities within Siskiyou County are a function of both available storage in various reservoirs and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snowpack, and;

WHEREAS, The United States Drought Monitor as of March 24, 2022, still includes a significant portion (36%) of Siskiyou County in D3 (Extreme Drought) and the western portions (100% of the western portion) of the County in D2 (Severe Drought), with no foreseeable precipitation and;

WHEREAS, 2022 is the second recorded driest year to date, and continued dry conditions and lack of adequate, substantial precipitation continue to present problems for drinking water supplies in the cities and towns of Siskiyou County as well as unincorporated areas, and;

WHEREAS, animals and plants that rely on Siskiyou County's rivers will be threatened, and;

WHEREAS, previous years' heavy reliance on ground water has left inadequate aquifer recharge and recharge of these aquifers is critical at this time of the year, and;

WHEREAS, water supplies for irrigators and the environment could be in serious jeopardy, and current conditions could very well result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, and a shortened growing season, and;

WHEREAS, emergency curtailments orders issued by the State Water Resources Control Board for the Shasta and Scott Rivers do not resolve water supply issues, and only further negatively impact agricultural production and an increasingly insecure food supply throughout the United States, and;

WHEREAS, water storage projects and infrastructure are crucial to securing an adequate water supply for the environment and agriculture, and;

WHEREAS, the low-income communities that are heavily dependent on agriculture employment continue to suffer from heightened unemployment, increasing social and economic vulnerabilities and hardship and;

WHEREAS, current conditions have resulted in early-season wildfires that will intensify the 2022 fire season and increase the risk for insect invasion, tree death, and deforestation and;

WHEREAS, we find the appropriate response is beyond the capability of Siskiyou County, and that declaring a State of Emergency will assist the County, irrigators and others in assessing, evaluating and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources, and;

WHEREAS, other resources have included a Governor's Drought Declaration, and;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2021, the United States Secretary of Agriculture issued a letter to Governor Newsom which designated fifty California counties, including Siskiyou, as primary natural disaster areas due to drought.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED**, that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is declaring a Drought Emergency in Siskiyou County, California.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that through this resolution the Board of Supervisors is requesting that the State Water Resources Control Boards curtailment orders for the Shasta and Scott Rivers be permanently lifted and that projects to develop water storage infrastructure in strategic locations throughout Siskiyou County be funded and prioritized by the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to the State Director of Emergency Services and the Governor of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be brought back to the Board every sixty days for consideration of extension.

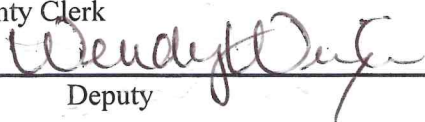
PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Siskiyou on April 5, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Valenzuela, Ogren and Criss
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None



Brandon A. Criss, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
Laura Bynum,
County Clerk

By 

Deputy