

Resolution No. ____

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

WHEREAS, water availability within Siskiyou County is dependent upon annual precipitation, reservoir storage, groundwater recharge, and seasonal snowpack conditions; and

WHEREAS, portions of Siskiyou County, specifically Lost watershed in northeastern Siskiyou County as identified in Exhibit A, are currently designated by the United States Drought Monitor as experiencing D1 (Moderate Drought) conditions; and

WHEREAS, below-average snowpack, reduced precipitation, and ongoing dry conditions within Lost watershed in Siskiyou County, which is located within the Klamath Project area, are placing increasing early-season strain on agricultural, environmental, and local municipal water supplies relied upon by irrigators, ranchers, tribal communities, wildlife habitats, and rural residents; and

WHEREAS, continued drought conditions may significantly impact water deliveries, groundwater recharge, pasture productivity, livestock operations, fisheries, and critical environmental resources connected to the Klamath Project and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, current drought conditions increase the likelihood of worsening fire danger, vegetation stress, economic hardship to agricultural producers, and operational strain on rural communities dependent upon reliable water supplies; and

WHEREAS, reduced water availability and ongoing drought conditions within the Klamath Project area may substantially impact agricultural irrigation deliveries, groundwater sustainability, wildlife refuge water allocations, and the overall economic stability of farming and ranching operations throughout the Project area, including Lost watershed in Siskiyou County; and

WHEREAS, as seen in the past drought stages, the reductions in wetland habitat, refuge water supplies, and seasonal marsh conditions within the Pacific Flyway may adversely affect migratory bird populations, including waterfowl and other migratory species that rely upon the Klamath Project area as one of the most significant migratory stopover habitats in North America; and

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors recognizes that drought conditions are expected to intensify throughout the 2026 summer season and acknowledges that additional countywide drought actions and declarations may become necessary in late June, should conditions continue to deteriorate across broader portions of the County; and

WHEREAS, early recognition of localized drought impacts in Lost watershed will assist the County and affected stakeholders in coordinating preparedness actions, monitoring water conditions, engaging state and federal partners, implementing the Drought Resilience Plan, and evaluating available drought assistance resources; and

WHEREAS, appropriate response is beyond the capability of Siskiyou County, and declaring a local emergency will assist the County, irrigators and others in assessing, evaluating and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to Government Code section 8630, hereby proclaims the existence of a localized drought emergency affecting Lost watershed in Siskiyou County as identified by Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall support continued monitoring, coordination, and engagement with state, federal, tribal, agricultural, and local partners regarding drought impacts and water supply conditions within Lost watershed in Siskiyou County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of California, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Water Resources, and appropriate state and federal agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be brought back to the Board of Supervisors every sixty (60) days for review and consideration of extension, modification, or termination in accordance with applicable law and current conditions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 19th day of May 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Ray A Haupt, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: Laura Bynum, County Clerk

By _____ Deputy