



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 02/18/14
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, 568-3400 *M*
Ryan Rockabrand, Director of Emergency Management, 681-5532 *RR*

**Re-Ratification Drought Proclamation Passed January 21, 2014, File# 14-00090,
All Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

- a) Adopt the Resolution Re-ratifying the Proclamation of a Local Emergency for Drought and Water Supply Conditions that exist in Santa Barbara County pursuant to Government Code Section 8630(c). (Attachment A); and
- b) Direct the Office of Emergency Management to return monthly for re-ratification of the Emergency until such a time that weather and water supply conditions dictate otherwise.
- c) Determine that the adoption of this ordinance is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act in compliance with Section 15061 (b), (3), (No possibility of impact on the environment) and Section 15269(a) (Declared Emergency). (Attachment B);

Summary Text:

On January 15, 2014, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Declared 27 Counties in California, including Santa Barbara County, to be designated as primary natural disaster areas due to drought conditions. Subsequently, on January 17th, 2014, the Governor declared a statewide

State of Emergency for Drought in the State of California. In turn, on the same date the Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services signed a Proclamation for a Local Emergency for Drought as well. Part of the Governor's declaration and the County's includes a call for voluntary 20% water reduction by residents.

In Santa Barbara County, year to date rainfall totals are currently at approximately 15% of normal with no measurable rainfall so far in January. This extreme low rainfall follows two previous low rainfall years as shown on the graph below. Accordingly, the water storage in the County's surface water reservoirs is showing signs of strain. Although capacity changes daily, as of February 3, 2014, Cachuma Lake is at approximately 76,000 acre feet (39% capacity) however deliverable water available for municipal use is far less than that. Gibraltar Reservoir is estimated under 6% capacity and is considered no longer useable by the City of Santa Barbara. Jameson Reservoir, which serves Montecito is at just over 28% capacity and has less than 2 years of supply left.

With reduced water levels in Cachuma, the Cachuma Operations & Maintenance Board (COMB) has been working on plans for an Emergency Pumping Project to pump water into the Tecolote Tunnel if the reservoir levels drop below the ability to gravity feed the South Coast. A similar emergency project was implemented in 1990-91 in response to similar conditions. COMB and County Water Agency staff calculated this project would be needed this coming fall, however, the recent increased usage of Cachuma, thus far, could accelerate that need. As referenced above, agriculture has been impacted as well.

Background:

Re-ratifying the Proclamation for a Local Emergency due to drought conditions falls in line with the Governor's Declaration and the USDA's Declaration.

The USDA's Declaration makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm, and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Water purveyors in the State, as well as the County are also independently making plans for Drought response. The City of Solvang has already done so and others stand to follow suit. The City of Santa Barbara has an existing desalinization plant which is currently idle; action for the declaration of a drought within city limits is scheduled for the Santa Barbara City Council Meeting on February 11, 2014. Additionally the city intends to hire an engineering firm to produce a reactivation plan for the facility which could produce as much as 3,125 acre feet of desalinized water per year.

Emergency response projects, such as COMB's project, could also be eligible for funding if these funds come available from the state or federal Government. Other emergency supply projects or programs could be needed as well.

Finally, the CEO has assembled a Local Drought Task Force consisting of representatives from County OEM, County Public Works, County Fire, County Agricultural Commissioner, COMB, and the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA). The Drought Task Force (DTF) has met twice since being established by the CEO on January 17, 2014 and has weekly meetings scheduled at the Emergency Operations Center; the DTF will continue to meet until such time as it is no longer deemed necessary.

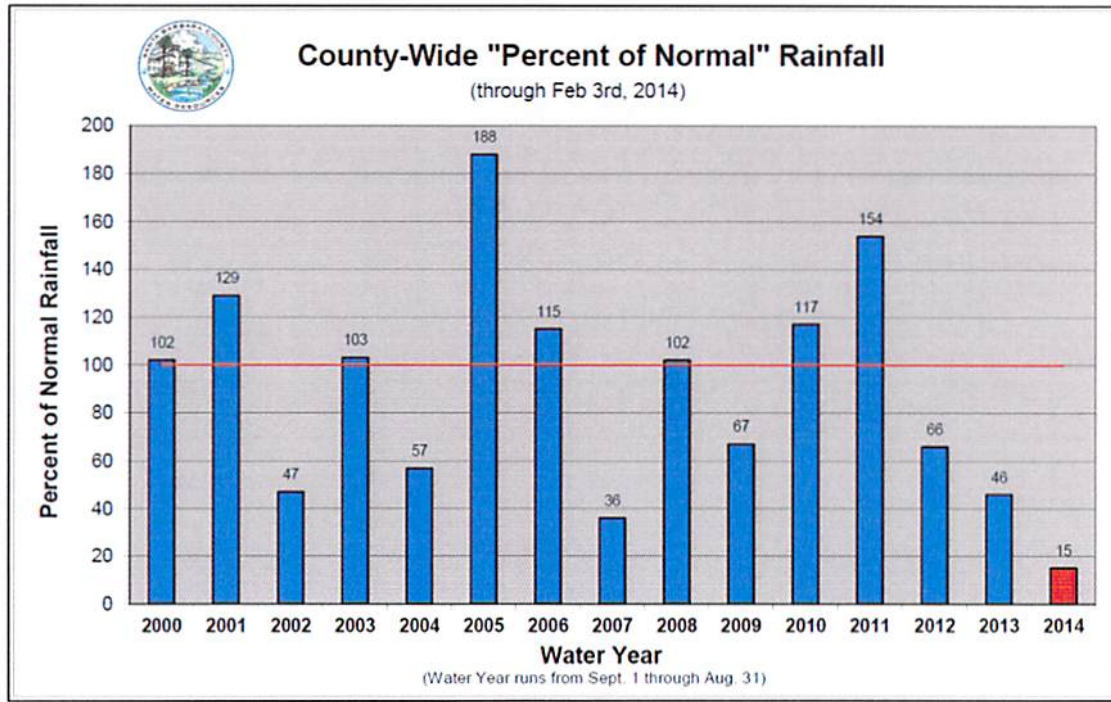


Figure 1 Chart of Annual Rainfall Prepared by COSB Public Works.

Government Code Section 8630(c) requires the Board to review the need for the continued existence of the Proclamation of Local Emergency at least every 30 days. Government Code Section 8630(d) requires termination of the Proclamation of Local Emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

Public Information and Communications Strategy

Presently Santa Barbara County works collaboratively with a network including the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, cities that provide water within the County, as well as water districts and community service districts. Together, these agencies sponsor programs that promote water conservation and awareness. Each water purveyor however plays a distinct role in communicating specific messages and providing information to their ratepayers regarding their individual water supply status and any district specific conservation measures.

As noted, on January 17, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed local officials to take action to prepare for drought conditions. The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors joined the State and proclaimed a local drought emergency and similarly called for an immediate voluntary 20% water reduction by residents.

In an effort to raise awareness about water supply issues, increase the profile of existing water conservation messages and communicate the call for a 20% voluntary reduction in water usage, a strategic communications plan has been developed. (Attachment C). The plan complements and bolsters the existing network communications currently provided via *Water Wise in Santa Barbara County* (WaterWiseSB). Key components of the strategic communications plan includes but are not limited to a significantly enhanced use of County of Santa Barbara Television production capabilities, all social media platforms and the Water Wise SB website to:

- Refresh messages and increase awareness and of and interest in water conservation within the County.
Reaffirm water conservation messages for residential (indoor and landscape) and business
- Create a more visible presence and renewed interest in Water Wise SB in the County.
- Explain the current water supply situation and the meaning of a drought
- Provide specific messages regarding the drought and impacts to public safety and agriculture within Santa Barbara County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

At this time, there is no cost associated with this action.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Director the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the following:

Office of Emergency Management, ATT: Ryan Rockabrand

Flood Control District office: ATTN: Christina Lopez

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution Re-ratifying the Proclamation of Drought Emergency Proclamation

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Attachment B: Notice of Exemption: 1970 California Environmental Quality Act

Attachment C: Draft Strategic Communication Plan

Authored by: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436
Ryan Rockabrand, Director of Emergency Management, 681-5532

CC:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF RATIFYING
PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE
OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY CAUSED BY
DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, Government Code, Sections 8558 and 8630, et seq., and Chapter 12 of the Santa Barbara County Code empower the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Board of Supervisors is not in session, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven days; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within this County; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of Santa Barbara did proclaim the existence of a Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions within Santa Barbara County on the 17th day of January 2014, at 2:00 p.m., at which time the Board of Supervisors was not in session and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2014 the Board of Supervisors found that conditions of extreme peril warranted and necessitated the ratification of the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630(c) requires the Board of Supervisors to review the need for the continued existence of a Proclamation of Local Emergency at least every 30 days and Government Code Section 8630(d) requires termination of a Proclamation of Local Emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in Santa Barbara County persist, and warrant the ongoing Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought.

WHEREAS, the State of California declared a Drought State of Emergency effective the 17th day of January 2014; the State is experiencing record dry conditions, with 2014 projected to become the driest year on record. The Drought State of Emergency remains in place; and

WHEREAS, the State's water supplies have dipped to alarming levels, indicated by: snowpack in California's mountains is approximately 20 percent of the normal average for this

**Resolution Ratifying Proclamation of Local Emergency
Caused by Drought Conditions**

date; California's largest water reservoirs have very low water levels for this time of year; California's major river systems, including the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, have significantly reduced surface water flows; and groundwater levels throughout the state have dropped significantly.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the conditions warranting the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions continue to exist and the Proclamation of the Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions shall remain in place; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions will be terminated at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this _____ day of February, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara**

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By _____
Deputy

**Resolution Ratifying Proclamation of Local Emergency
Caused by Drought Conditions**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:
MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI
COUNTY COUNSEL**

By _____
Deputy

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CHIEF
RYAN ROCKABRAND
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

By _____

ATTACHMENT B

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ryan Rockabrand, Director of Emergency Management, OEM

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s): Countywide

Case No.: Resolution Re-ratifying

Proclamation of Local Emergency

Location: Countywide

(Include street address and cross street (if urbanized area) or attach specific location map)

Project Title: Fire Ordinance Amendments

Project Description: Re-ratification of Proclamation of Local Emergency for Drought and Water Supply Conditions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara

Exempt Status: (Check one)

Ministerial

Statutory Exemption

Categorical Exemption

Emergency Project

Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Sections: 15061(b), (3), (No possibility of impact on the environment); and 15269(a) Declared Emergency.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary)

The Director of Emergency Service proclaimed the existence of a Local Emergency for Drought and Water Supply Conditions on January 17, 2014 and the Proclamation was ratified by the Board of Supervisor on January 21, 2014. Government Code Section 8630(c) requires the Board to review the need for continuing the Proclamation at least every 30 days. This action presents no possibility of impact on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Ryan Rockabrand Phone #: (805) 681-5532

Department/Division Representative: _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at Office of Emergency Management 6 days prior to a decision on the project. Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Date Filed by County Clerk