



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**      **Agenda Number:**  
**AGENDA LETTER**

**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:** March 5, 2019  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department      Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Director(s)  
Contact Info:      Matt Pontes, Assistant CEO  
Robert Lewin, Director of Emergency Management  
**SUBJECT:**      **Termination of Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought  
Conditions**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution Terminating the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions that exist in Santa Barbara County pursuant to Government Code Section 8630(c); and
- b) Determine the above actions are not a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the actions consist of organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The resolution before the Board is a termination of the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions. Effective March 5, 2019. Drought conditions in Santa Barbara County have improved to a level that a Proclamation of a Local Emergency no longer is necessary.

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. On January 17, 2014, the Governor declared a statewide State of Emergency

for Drought. On the same date, the Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions in Santa Barbara County.

On April 7, 2017, following significant winter rains in California, Governor Edmund G. Brown issued an executive order ending the drought state of emergency, in most counties, including Santa Barbara County. Despite the Governor ending the drought state of emergency, local drought conditions continue.

**Background:**



Santa Barbara County as of February 12, 2019 is designated as a D0 Drought Level (Abnormally Dry), the lowest intensity level. More storms are predicted for this rain season, which could further improve overall drought conditions. January and February storms have provided needed rainfall and surface water reservoirs are recharging. As of February 19, 2019, the capacity of Lake Cachuma is 60% and rising (from a low of near 7%) with 114,823 acre-feet. When the Board of Supervisors proclaimed a drought emergency in January 17, 2014 Cachuma reservoir was at 39% capacity and 77,000 acre feet.

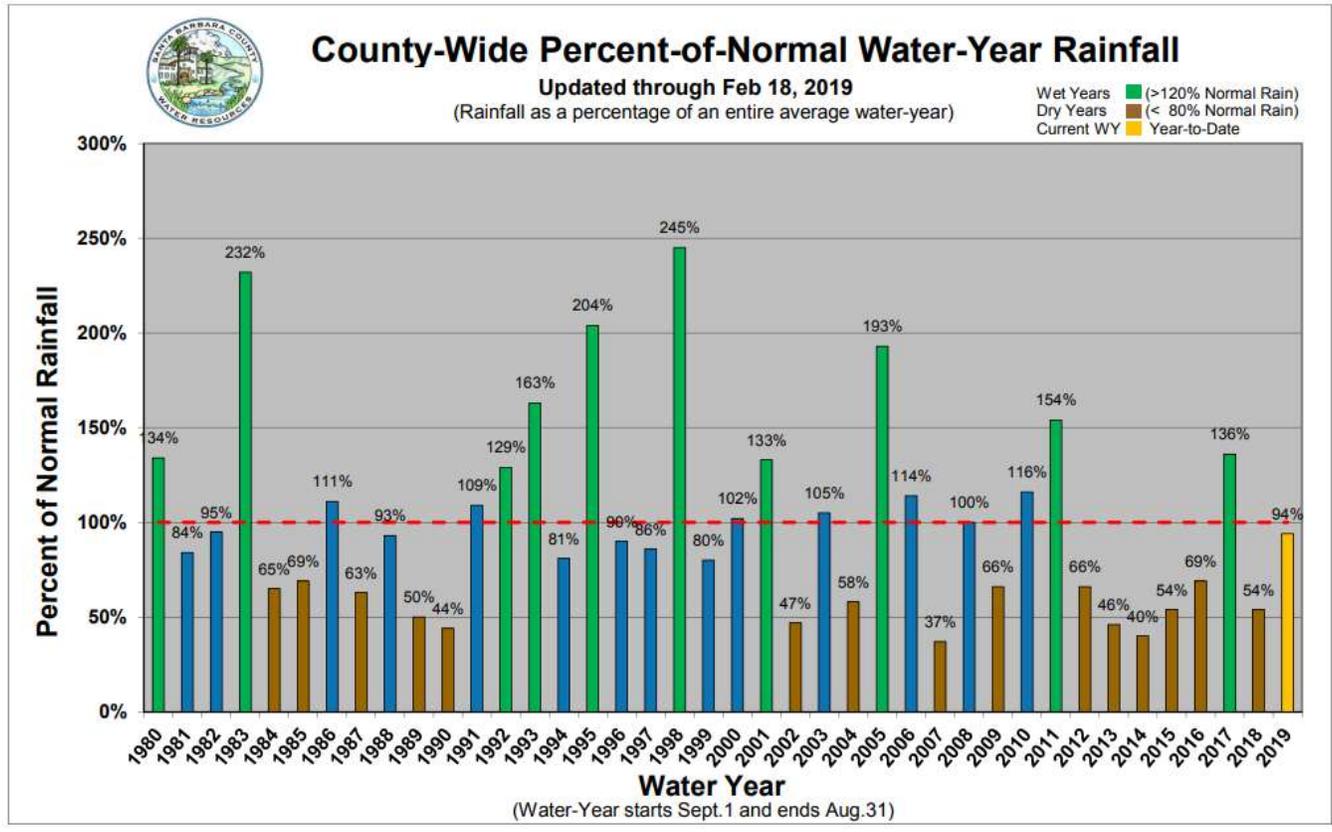
Gibraltar Reservoir (City of Santa Barbara's reservoir) is now at 100% capacity, with 4,314 acre-feet. Jameson Reservoir (Montecito Water District reservoir) is at 100% capacity, with 5,145 acre-feet.

It will take several average or more rainfall rate years to fully recharge the ground water basins which have been reduced significantly during the drought, however because the reservoir capacities are full or rising, along with State water allocations anticipated to be increased from a current allocation of 15%, the need for ground water could be reduced depending on how the water is managed.

The City of Santa Barbara's Desalination facility continues to produce drinking water for the City of Santa Barbara. The next milestone is for the facility to pass acceptance, which pertains to language in the contract. The facility has the current capacity to produce nearly 3 million gallons of water per day, which is equivalent to 3,125 acre-feet of water annually or about 30% of the City's demand. The City of Santa Barbara and Montecito Water District continue to move forward on an agreement to increase production of desal water and provide desal water to the community of Montecito. This will require a conveyance pipeline to move water from the desal plant to the City's Cater Water Treatment Plant where it can be delivered to Montecito via the South Coast Conduit.

The Rey Fire in 2016 and the Whittier and Thomas Fires in 2017 all occurred in the reservoirs' watersheds. All three reservoirs continue to be impacted with increased sedimentation from the burn areas. This impact will continue depending on the amount and the intensity of rainfall over the next 2 to 3 year's winter storms. This will impact their overall water storage capacity. In addition, water quality has been reduced with the increased sedimentation and carbon to both Jameson and Gibraltar reservoirs.

As of February 19, 2019, the current County-wide percentage of "Normal-Water-Year" rainfall for the 2018-19 rainfall year is 94%. This is 145% "Normal-to-Date" rainfall.



Recurring droughts in Santa Barbara County are more likely with the impacts of climate change so if drought conditions occur in the future a new Local Emergency will need to be proclaimed.

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 60 days. Government Code Section 8630(d) requires termination of the Proclamation of Local Emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding Sources	FY 18-19 Costs to date	Total Inception-to-date Project Costs
General Fund	\$1,647	\$124,531
State	\$0	\$85,000
Federal	\$0	\$0
Fees	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$88,774
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,647</b>	<b>\$298,305</b>

The CEO established a project code for tracking staffing costs and time associated with drought activities. Since declaration in January 2014, costs for management of emergency drought conditions have been reported by the CEO's Office of Emergency Management and Public Works' Department Flood Control and Water Agency Divisions; minor costs have been reported by the Agricultural Commissioner and Parks Department.

**Staffing Impacts:**

Although there are no FTE personnel resourced to management of the drought, labor hours as reported countywide at last analysis are approximately 2,410 hours for emergency drought management since tracking began in January 2014.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order to the following:

Office of Emergency Management, Attn: Sonia Thompson  
Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Resolution Terminating the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions

**Authored by:**

Robert Lewin, Director OEM, (805) 681-5532