



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: January 29, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

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: **Re-Ratification Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought
Conditions**

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 re-ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions that exist in Santa Barbara County pursuant to Government Code Section 8630(c); and
- b) Direct the Office of Emergency Management to return within 60 days for re-ratification of the Emergency until such a time that weather and water supply conditions dictate otherwise; and
- c) 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 re-ratification Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions. Effective January 1, 2019, Government Code Section 8630(c) has been amended to extend the required re-ratification period from 30 days to 60 days.

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:



Following significant January rainfall, on January 15, 2019 the drought level was reduced to D1 Moderate Drought Level from D3 Extreme Drought Level. The County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is currently at a level one activation. OEM continues to monitor conditions and coordinate County communication and outreach plans with all stakeholder agencies to support the County Drought Task Force (DTF).

January storms are providing needed rainfall and for the first time this year water is flowing into the reservoirs. Gibraltar reservoir began spilling on January 17, 2019. The capacity of Lake Cachuma is 34.5% (from a low of near 7%) with 66,603 acre-feet. If the water capacity in Lake Cachuma begins to drop again, it may be necessary to once again place an emergency pumping barge in Lake Cachuma as the water level will fall below the level

needed for the water to flow unassisted into Tecolote Tunnel and the South Coast distribution system. The current projection is that the barge will be needed in 2019.

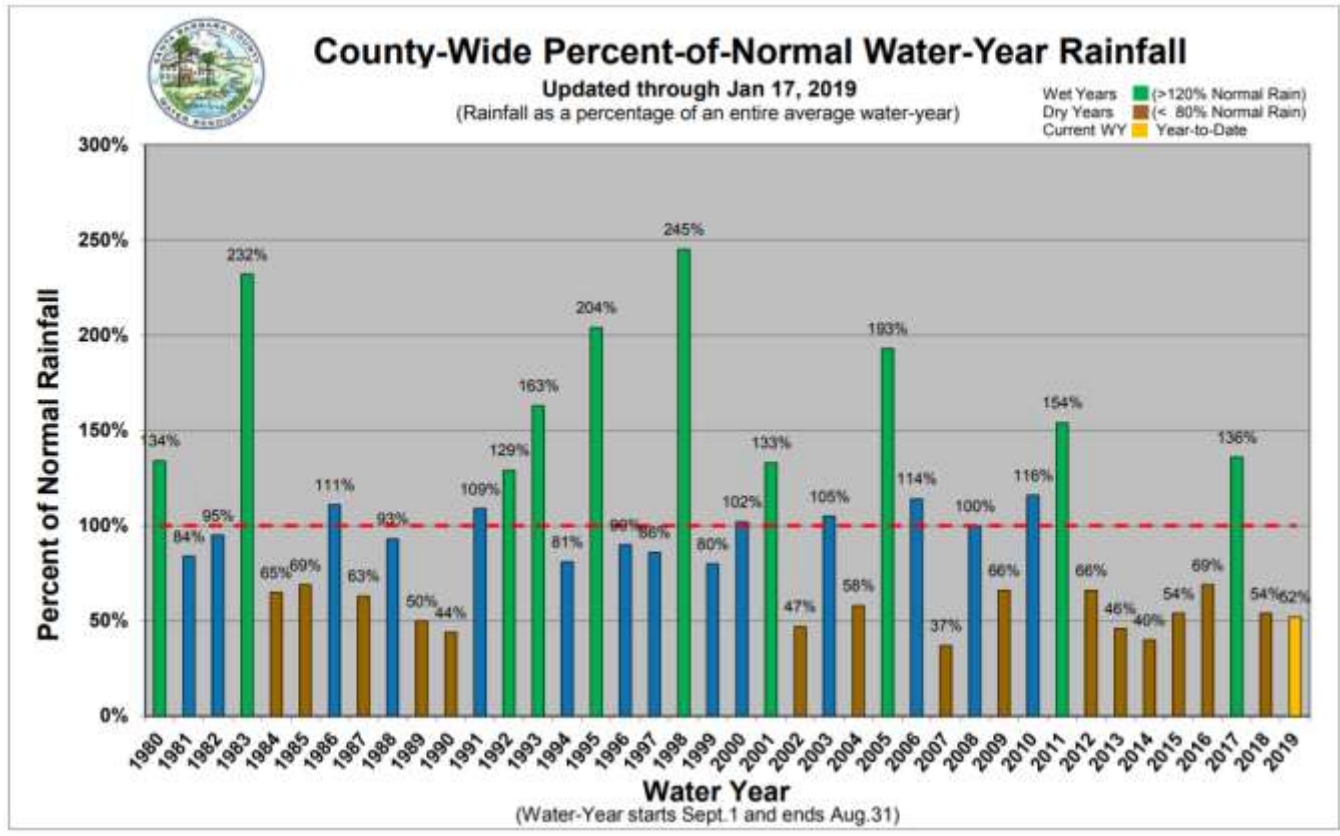
Gibraltar Reservoir (City of Santa Barbara's reservoir) is now at 77.9% capacity, with 3,361 acre-feet. Jameson Reservoir (Montecito Water District reservoir) is at 79.5% capacity, with 4,091 acre-feet.

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 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 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. An emergency meeting was called on December 15, 2017 of the Drought Action Work Group to provide information to the water purveyors on the

significance of the fire’s impact on water supplies. Currently, the water quality of Gibraltar and Jameson from the impacts of the Thomas Fire make it so the water is difficult and expensive to treat. The water quality of Cachuma is adequate for regular use. A meeting of the Drought Task Force was held on October 18, 2018 to discuss the water capacity issue in the south county.

As of January 17, 2019 the current County-wide percentage of “Normal-Water-Year” rainfall for the 2018-19 rainfall year is 52%. This is 127% “Normal-to-Date” rainfall.



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:

Costs continue to be compiled. Updates will be provided at future re-ratification Board items.

| Funding Sources | FY 18-19 Costs to date | Total Inception-to-date Project Costs |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$1,318 | \$124,201 |

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| State | \$0 | \$85,000 |
| Federal | \$0 | \$0 |
| Fees | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other | \$0 | \$88,774 |
| Total | \$1,318 | \$297,975 |

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 2,406 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 Re-ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions

Authored by:

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