



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 19, 2019
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 20 minutes
Continued Item: Continued
If Yes, date from: March 5, 2019
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: **Termination of 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 Terminating the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions that existed in Santa Barbara County pursuant to Government Code Section 8630(c); (“Attachment A”) and
- b) Adopt a Resolution of Concern Regarding A Prolonged Water Supply Shortage Within Santa Barbara County, in response to concerns by local water purveyors; (“Attachment B”)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:

There are two resolutions before the Board regarding drought conditions. One is a termination of the Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions, effective March 19, 2019. The second is a resolution of Concern Regarding a Prolonged Water Supply Shortage within Santa Barbara County. Drought conditions in Santa Barbara County have improved to a level that a Proclamation of a Local

Emergency no longer is necessary. However, the water purveyors have identified a continuing water supply shortage among the South Coast communities.

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. Further, Government Code Section 8630(d) requires termination of the Proclamation of Local Emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant. Therefore, this action by the Board of Supervisors will fulfill this requirement.

Background:

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 continued in Santa Barbara County.

On April 11, 2017, the Board of Supervisors joined with the County major water purveyor governing bodies to recognize the impacts of long-term droughts in the County by approving resolutions to support the local Action Working Group’s Proposal to the State Drought Task Force. (See, “Attachment C and Attachment D”). The Proposal identified three projects that will help to secure additional water for the region and three projects that will protect the existing water supply in the region.



2019 storms have provided needed rainfall; surface water reservoirs are full or recharging. On February 26, 2019, Santa Barbara County was designated as “no drought” by the US Drought Monitor. As of March 11, 2019, the capacity of Lake Cachuma is 73% and rising (from a low of near 7%) with 140,451 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.

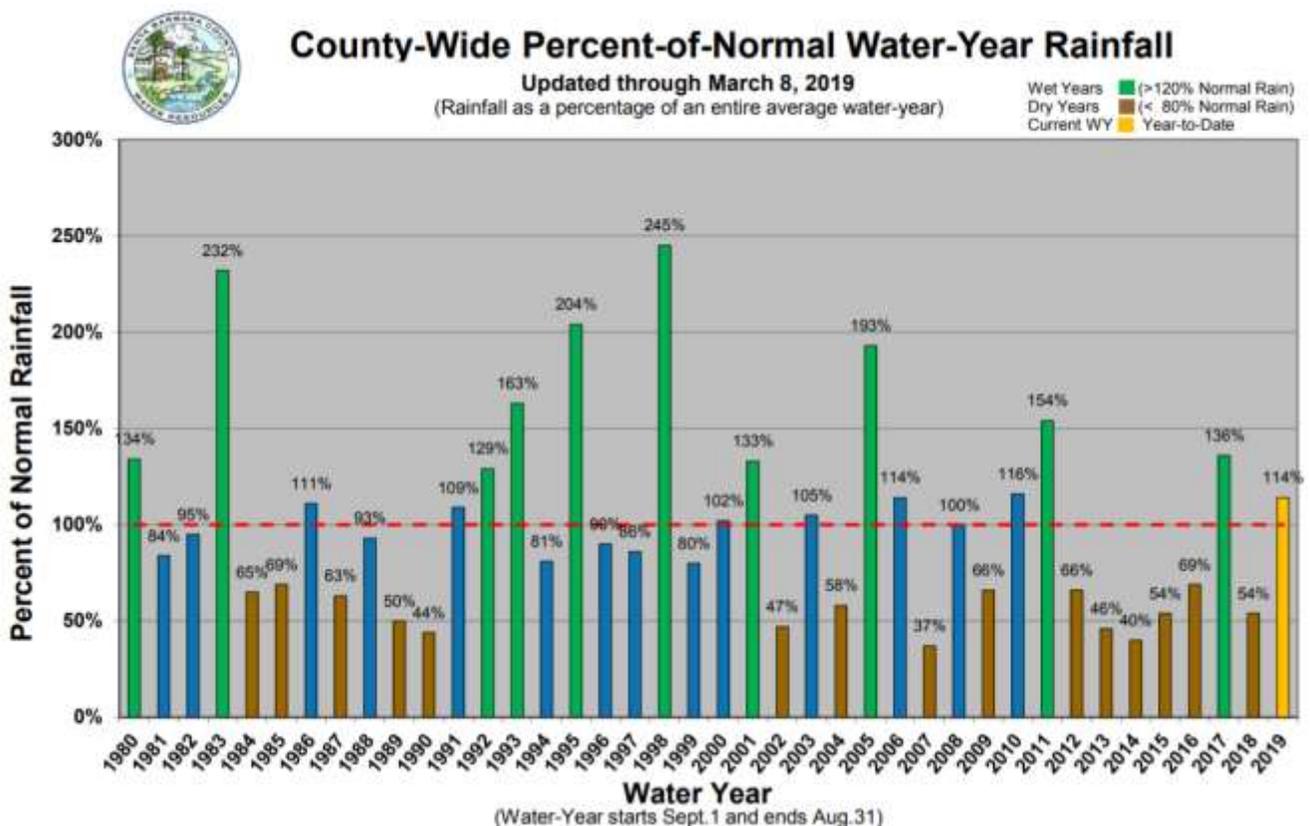
Gibraltar Reservoir (City of Santa Barbara’s reservoir) is now at 100% capacity, with 4,342 acre-feet. Jameson Reservoir (Montecito Water District reservoir) is at 100% capacity, with 5,148 acre-feet.

It will take several average or better rainfall years to fully recharge the ground water basins, which were significantly depleted during the drought. However, because the reservoir are full or rising, and State water allocations are anticipated to be increased, 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 organics to both Jameson and Gibraltar reservoirs.

As of March 8, 2019, the current County-wide percentage of "Normal-Water-Year" rainfall for the 2018-19 rainfall year is 114%. This is 144% "Normal-to-Date" rainfall.



The South Coast water purveyors continue to be concerned about a water shortage after 7 years of drought, and have requested that the Board adopt a resolution of Concern Regarding a Prolonged Water Supply Shortage.

Recurring droughts in Santa Barbara County are more likely with the impacts of climate change. If drought conditions reoccur a new Local Emergency may need to be proclaimed.

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
Total	\$1,647	\$298,305

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
- Attachment B: Resolution of Concern Regarding a Prolonged Water Supply Shortage within Santa Barbara County
- Attachment C: Proposal to the Governor Drought Task Force, February 8, 2017
- Attachment D: Resolutions from Water Purveyors & County Board in support of February 8, 2017 proposal

Authored by: Robert Lewin, Director OEM, (805) 681-5532