



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number: 14-00090

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: 03/18/14
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, 568-3400
Director(s)
Contact Info: Ryan Rockabrand, Director of Emergency Management, 681-5532

**Re-Ratification Drought Proclamation Passed February 18, 2014 , All
Supervisorial Districts, (Third Month Renewal)**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

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 this project was found by your Board to be exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b) (3) and 15269(a), and that the proposed actions are within the scope of the prior CEQA exemption.

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 46% of normal. This extreme low rainfall follows two previous low rainfall years as shown on the graph below. Although capacity changes daily, as of March 3, 2014, Cachuma Lake is at approximately 77,462 acre feet representing a total increase of .02% from late February/early March storms keeping reservoir just under 40% of total capacity. Beginning February 27, storm systems brought sizable rainfall county wide. On February 26, 2014 the percent of normal was 15% by March 3, 2014 an increase of 31 percent was reported bringing the county to the current 46% number. Attachment C is provided for the Board’s review to see summary information on late February and early March rainfall totals by reporting location.

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. Although it is difficult to estimate precisely when the need for emergency pumping will be realized, COMB estimates on or around September 1 of 2014 with a total cost of anywhere between three to five million dollars.

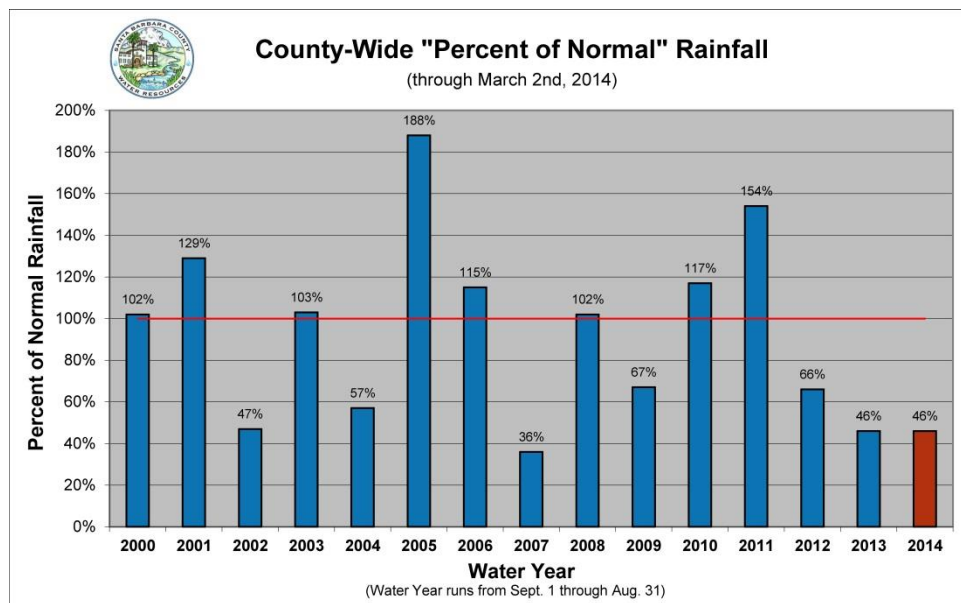


Chart of Rainfall as of March 3, 2014

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 declared a Stage One drought on February 11, 2014 which seeks a voluntary reduction of 20% water use from residents; the city is currently implementing a conservation program for outreach and marketing efforts.

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.

The County Office of Emergency Management is currently in a level two activation—essential staffing for centralized coordination and decentralized direction. It continues to monitor conditions and coordinate county communication and outreach plans with all stakeholder agencies via the Drought Task Force (DTF) established by the CEO.

The DTF has been meeting biweekly and has developed, under leadership of the CEO, the *Santa Barbara County Strategic Communications and Marketing Strategy for a Water Conservation Education Campaign* (Attachment C) providing situation, current public perception, and steps for marketing to county residents on need and methods for conservation to reduce water consumption.

The CEO's Office of Emergency Management submitted an Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA) request to the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) requesting resources from Ventura County in the form of personnel to assist with development situation status reports and action plans as pertaining to the drought.

Additionally, the county leveraged recent storm activity beginning February 27, 2014 by seeding clouds via Automated High Output Seeding Systems and aircraft for the duration of the weather systems.

A \$687 million drought-relief plan SB103 and SB104 were approved in both chambers of the state legislature, and are being sent to Gov. Jerry Brown for signature. The legislation re-appropriates current fiscal year funds and draws from two previously approved bonds. It includes almost \$475 million in accelerated grant funding for water conservation and recycling projects. Another \$15 million will go to communities running low on drinking water supplies while \$47 million provides food and housing assistance for people in drought-stricken communities. The plan also increases penalties for illegally diverting water. The legislation will take effect immediately if signed by the governor, as expected.

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.

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	\$ 16,449.77		
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:	\$ 10,074.29		
Total	\$ 26,524.06	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative: The CEO established a project code for tracking staffing costs and time associated with drought activities. For this fiscal year, 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.

Staffing Impacts:

Although there are no FTE personnel resourced to management of the drought, labor hours as reported county-wide year to date are approximately 342 for time expended on emergency drought management.

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

Attachment B: Rainfall table

Authored by: Ryan Rockabrand, Director Emergency Management, 681-5532

cc: