

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

**IN THE MATTER OF RE-RATIFICATION
OF PROCLAMATION OF THE
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
CAUSED BY DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

RESOLUTION NO. 22-250

WHEREAS, Government Code, Sections 8558 and 8630, *et seq.*, empower the Board of Supervisors 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

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 request the Board of Supervisors 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 when the Board of Supervisors is in session; and

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

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2019 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 19-93 Concern Regarding Prolonged Water Supply Shortage within Santa Barbara County, which recognized the long-term impacts of that drought and the need for Water Purveyors, the County and its residents to continue to work together to conserve and to improve water security from future droughts; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2021 the US Small Business Administration and the US Department of Agriculture declared the County of Santa Barbara and 10 other counties to be Agricultural Disaster areas due to drought intensity levels as identified by the US Drought Monitor, therefore providing technical and fiscal assistance to agricultural businesses and non-profits; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist due to drought conditions in the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-10-21 calling on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels, and setting forth commonsense measures that can be undertaken to save water and money; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order N-10-21 directed State agencies, led by the California Department of Water Resources and in coordination with local agencies, to encourage actions by all Californians, whether in their residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, or institutional use, to

Resolution Re-ratifying Proclamation of a Local Emergency
Caused by Drought Conditions

reduce water usage, including through the statewide Save Our Water conservation campaign at SaveOurWater.com, which provides simple ways for Californians to reduce water use in their everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order N-10-21 directed the State Department of Water Resources to monitor hydrologic conditions such as cumulative precipitation, reservoir storage levels, soil moisture and other metrics, and for the State Water Resources Control Board to monitor progress on voluntary conservation as ongoing indicators of water supply risk that may inform future drought response actions; and

WHEREAS, there are reduced supplies available from the State Water Project, local surface supplies, and groundwater for most water agencies in the County; and

WHEREAS, reliance on the State water system as the primary source of water for many parts of the County leaves the County vulnerable to water outages and shortages; and

WHEREAS, most of California is also under a State drought emergency, making availability of additional supplies costly if available in the future; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County is at the US Drought Monitor D3 Drought Level of Extreme; and

WHEREAS, as of November 15, 2022, the capacity of Lake Cachuma is approximately 31.6% with 61,036 acre-feet of total storage, and the level is projected to fall below the elevation needed for water to flow unassisted into the Tecolote Tunnel and the South Coast distribution system without the re-establishment of an emergency barge pump in 2023; and

WHEREAS, as of November 15, 2022, the Gibraltar Reservoir (City of Santa Barbara's reservoir) is at 20.1% capacity, with approximately 944 acre-feet in storage and the Jameson Reservoir (Montecito Water District reservoir) is at 53.1% capacity, with approximately 2,573 acre-feet in storage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara's Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant is operational and producing drinking water for the City of Santa Barbara. 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; and

WHEREAS, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have been established within Santa Barbara County, and many of these basins have water levels at or near historical lows due to extended drought; and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2021, the Board of Supervisors found that conditions of extreme peril warranted and necessitated a Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions;

Resolution Re-ratifying Proclamation of a 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 60 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 Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the conditions warranting a Proclamation of Local Emergency Caused by Drought Conditions exist; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors will review the need for the continued existence of a Proclamation of Local Emergency at least every 60 days; 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.

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Resolution Re-ratifying Proclamation of a Local Emergency
Caused by Drought Conditions

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 13th day of December, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Williams, Capps, Hartmann, Nelson and Lavagnino

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



JOAN HARTMANN, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By 

Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

DocuSigned by:

By _____
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Deputy County Counsel

KELLY HUBBARD
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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By _____
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