

**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CAUSED BY DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Government Code Sections 8630 *et seq.*, empowers 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**, Section 8558(c) of the Government Code defines a “Local Emergency” as: “the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor’s warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat”; 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**, 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 US Drought Monitor D3 Drought Level of Extreme and the countywide percentage of “Normal-Water-Year” rainfall is only 48%; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 9, 2021, the capacity of Lake Cachuma is approximately 55.8% with

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107,777 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 next year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gibraltar Reservoir (City of Santa Barbara's reservoir) is now at less than 10% capacity, with approximately 400 acre-feet in storage and the Jameson Reservoir (Montecito Water District reservoir) is at 69% capacity, with approximately 3,300 acre-feet in storage; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Barbara's Desalination facility is operational and is 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 the groundwater basins were starting to recover from the 2014-2019 drought, however the basins have not received enough replenishment to bring them back to prior levels of supply; and

**WHEREAS**, the above described conditions are a threat to public health and create conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara, which are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to the impacts of this emergency and receive any needed funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act and any other State and Federal funding that may be available.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** that a local emergency now exists in the entire Operational Area of the County of Santa Barbara as a result of Drought Conditions; and

1. That all the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. That the conditions of extreme peril are not the results of labor controversy; and
3. That this proclamation of Local Emergency, invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all of the powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8550 *et seq.*), Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, and all other applicable laws, to be used by authorized personnel of the County of Santa Barbara; and
4. That, pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(b), the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to require emergency services of any county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any County department or agency; and
5. That a copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be posted on all outside public access doors of the County Administration Building, and County personnel shall endeavor to make copies of this Proclamation available to news media; and

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6. That a copy of this Proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State law; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other State and Federal funds that may be available; and
7. That this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for sixty (60) days, unless extended, or unless sooner terminated, and shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors, at least every 60 days until the Local Emergency is terminated.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bob Nelson  
Board of Supervisors Chair  
County of Santa Barbara