County of Sonoma
Agenda Item
Summary Report

Clerk of the Board
575 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To: Board of Supervisors, County of Sonoma

Board Agenda Date: April 14, 2015  Vote Requirement: Majority

Department or Agency Name(s): Fire and Emergency Services

Staff Name and Phone Number: Al Terrell / 565-1152

Supervisory District(s): All Districts

Title: Extension of Proclamation of Local Emergency Due to Drought Conditions

Recommended Actions:

Adopt a 30 Day extension of the Resolution proclaiming a drought emergency in Sonoma County.

Executive Summary:

The Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency due to drought conditions at the February 25, 2014, Board meeting. That resolution covers the entire Sonoma County (County) Operational Area, including all nine cities and special districts. Subsequent 30 day extensions were approved on March 25, April 22, May 20, June 17, June 24, July 22, August 19, September 16, October 14, November 4, December 2, December 9, 2014, January 6, February 3, March 3, and March 17, 2015. On April 1, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown ordered mandatory water restrictions for the first time during the current extended drought. Local communities will be required to cut water usage between 20 and 25 percent from 2013 levels. December and February storms brought near average rainfall and some much-needed relief, and although there has been significant improvement in local water supply resources in early 2015, exceptionally warm and dry conditions through the winter have limited the effects as we approach the dry season. The Director of Emergency Services recommends that the Board approve the proclamation extending the local emergency for another 30 days. This is the maximum period allowed by law that an emergency can be extended.

Drought

Since the late autumn storms and atmospheric river events in December 2014, and early February 2015, water storage levels have improved dramatically. However, year-to-date rainfall totals are still below average, and the County started the year with low water storage levels. As of April 7, 2015, storage in Lake Mendocino is 62,803 acre feet, or 56 percent of the maximum water supply pool, and Lake Sonoma is at 215,245 acre feet, or 87 percent of water supply capacity. These are levels that are higher than at this point in 2014, but below average for this point in the year.

California's present drought has evolved over several years’ worth of rainfall deficits, and one or two storms cannot be expected to end the significant impacts across the state. It remains important for Californians to conserve water and heed the advice of local and statewide water management agencies, despite our short-term improvements. It is critical for the state water system to have additional storms in the next month to make improvements to California's drought conditions. Historically low snowpack levels in the Sierras are
creating a dire situation for the California Water System. Should those storms fail to materialize, as in the 2012-13 water year, a fourth year of severe drought is a reality, although locally the County is in much better shape than in 2014. Current long-range forecasts call for “equal chances” of precipitation for what is left of the season. The message of conservation and emergency measures taken to reduce flows continues.

As prescribed in our last extension, staff has evaluated these five conditions in consideration of this 30-day extension to the drought emergency proclamation:

1. **What is the status of Sonoma County and California on the U.S. Drought Monitor?** On February 12, 2015, the condition of Sonoma County was lowered from “Extreme Drought” to “Severe Drought”. We remain in the “Severe Drought” condition.

2. **What is the status of the Governor’s drought proclamation?** The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services has activated the State Operations Center (SOC), Inland, Coastal and Southern Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs) in support of the Drought State of Emergency and continues to monitor the conditions. Snowpack in the Sierra is experiencing historical, critically low levels, seasonal averages just 5-6% of normal. On March 17, the State Water Control Board approved prohibitions on potable water use first adopted last year and additional prohibitions, including: irrigating landscape during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation, restaurants serving water only on request and hotels providing guests the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. On March 27, Governor Brown signed emergency legislation, AB 91 and AB 92, that fast-tracks more than $1 billion in funding for drought relief and critical water infrastructure projects. Then, on April 1, the Governor, issued an executive order that will save water, increase enforcement to prevent wasteful water use, streamline the state’s drought response and invest in new technologies that will make California more drought resilient.

3. **What is the status of the local emergency proclamations within the Operational Area (Cloverdale and Healdsburg)?** In February 2015, Cloverdale lowered their “Stage 2 Water Shortage Emergency” with mandatory 25 percent restrictions on water usage to a “Stage 1 Water Shortage Emergency” asking for voluntary 20 percent reductions. Conservation efforts, leak repairs, and two new wells have significantly improved Cloverdale’s water supply situation. Healdsburg plans to maintain “Stage 2” mandatory water conservation efforts and water reuse programs until state restrictions ease.

4. **What is the status of the Water Agency’s Temporary Urgency Change Order?** The Water Agency is preparing this month to submit a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to the State Water Resources Control Board to preserve stored water. The Petition seeks to reduce flows in upper Russian River to 75 cubic-feet per second (cfs) and 85 cfs in the lower Russian River. We anticipate receiving an Order from the State Water Board in May. The last TUCP expired in February.

5. **What is the status of Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino reservoir storage levels?** As of April 7, 2015, Lake Sonoma is 87 percent of water supply capacity. Lake Mendocino is 62,803 acre feet, or 56 percent of the maximum water supply pool.

Based upon these current conditions, staff recommends another 30 day extension to the proclamation of local emergency due to drought conditions. As the statewide restrictions are clarified and the extent of new requirements and opportunities are made clear, staff will return with further recommendations on how best to address the drought in the regional context.

The proclamation extending the existence of a local emergency will enable the County to receive disaster related assistance from the State and Federal governments. There are several State and Federal grant programs available to an assortment of departments, agencies, special districts, and individuals affected by the drought conditions. Currently available through the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) are funds to provide temporary water supplies to households without water for drinking and/or sanitation purposes. The County has enacted financial measures to track response costs that would allow for reimbursement.
should it become available in the future.

Prior Board Actions:

03/17/2015: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
03/03/2015: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
02/03/2015: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
01/06/2015: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
12/02/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
11/04/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
10/14/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
09/16/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
08/19/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
07/22/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
06/24/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
06/17/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
05/20/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
04/22/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
03/25/2014: 30 Day extension of proclamation.
02/25/2014: Proclamation of a local emergency due to drought conditions.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal 2: Economic and Environmental Stewardship

The recommended actions support the conservation of vital resources necessary for the health, safety, and continued economic growth of the County and its citizens.

Fiscal Summary - FY 14-15

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<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Funding Source(s)</th>
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<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>Total Sources</td>
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Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (If Required):

No specific budget action is requested through this item. Costs associated with emergency response planning and activity, including costs associated with staffing the Emergency Operations Center, requesting mutual aide, and other necessary measures are being tracked through the County’s financial system.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Title (Payroll Classification)</th>
<th>Monthly Salary Range (A – I Step)</th>
<th>Additions (Number)</th>
<th>Deletions (Number)</th>
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Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

None.

Attachments:

Resolution (A1)

Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:

None.