

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

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|--|---|--|----------------------|
| (1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office | (2) MEETING DATE 5/6/2014 | (3) CONTACT/PHONE Lisa Howe 781-5025 | |
| (4) SUBJECT Second 30-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions for Board's review of the continuing need for the March 11, 2014 proclamation of local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630. All Districts. | | | |
| (5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board receive the 30-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions establishing the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County. | | | |
| (6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A | (7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00 | (8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00 | (9) BUDGETED? Yes |
| (10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. <u>15 Minutes</u>) | | | |
| (11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | | | |
| (12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A | | (13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | |
| (14) LOCATION MAP N/A | (15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A | (16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>3/11/2014 & 4/8/2014</u> | |
| (17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Guy Savage | | | |
| (18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts | | | |

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Administrative Office / Lisa Howe
781-5025

DATE: 5/6/2014

SUBJECT: Second 30-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions for Board's review of the continuing need for the March 11, 2014 proclamation of local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board receive the 30-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions establishing the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County.

DISCUSSION

Background

On March 11, 2014, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming a local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County. Section 8630 of the California Government Code and County Code Chapter 2.80.070 (2) require that the Board of Supervisors review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every 30 days until such emergency is terminated. The Board also directed staff to return every 30 days to provide an update on the status of actions by the Drought Task Force, including a report on the analysis regarding local water conditions, local responses, conservation and outreach projects, and the State Water Project.

The last drought update was on April 8, 2014. This is the second 30-day update since the proclamation of a local emergency on March 11, 2014.

The Drought Task Force continues to meet to coordinate drought monitoring, impact assessments, responses to emergency health and human safety, and public communication and outreach. The task force prepared the Monthly Drought Update (Attachment 1) to inform the Board on current drought conditions and related management actions. Current drought conditions confirm the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency.

Current Conditions

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor report released April 24, 2014 indicates San Luis Obispo County remains at the D4 – Exceptional Drought intensity rating (Attachment 2). As of April 22, 2014, the County has had minimal rainfall since the proclamation of a local emergency. Total rainfall amounts to date are approximately 33% of average annual rainfall totals. Local reservoir levels remain significantly lower than the average percentage capacity for this time of year including: Nacimiento 22%; Lopez 56%; Salinas 36%; and Whale Rock 54% (Attachment 3).

Statewide precipitation, snowpack and reservoir levels continue to remain very low. As our State's rainy season (November-April) nears its end, it is highly unlikely that precipitation totals will increase significantly. This winter's below average rain and snowfall worsens conditions in this third straight dry year.

Impacts

Agricultural, fire danger, and economic impacts continue to intensify. Agricultural conditions continue to deteriorate due to

lack of moisture. Livestock producers continue to sell animals, haul in water, and buy feed to maintain the remaining reduced herds. Avocado growers continue to “stump” or cut trees back and implement deficit irrigation techniques to manage available water supplies.

Fire activity statewide continues to be well above the year-to-date average. 1,040 fires have been reported across the State since January 1, burning 2,393 acres. Locally, fire danger remains elevated as the continuous drying of both live and dead fuels will likely lead to unprecedented dry fuel conditions for the remainder of the year or until there is significant rainfall.

As mentioned in previous updates, as drought conditions continue, negative economic impacts continue to mount. There is still no information available regarding the impact on the labor force due to the drought conditions.

Emergency Actions

Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Application

Senate Bill 104 appropriated \$200 million of Existing Proposition 84 Integrative Regional Water Management (IRWM) grants to be awarded by the Department of Water Resources in an expedited drought relief funding round. On April 22, 2014, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement for professional engineering services with Carollo Engineers, Inc. for developing the IRWM expedited drought grant application. In order to respond to immediate needs, the proclamation of a local emergency allowed the County to approve the agreement without traditional purchasing procedure requirements. Staff will return to the Board with the final list of projects, seeking authorization to submit a grant application to the California Department of Water Resources as lead agency.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board review and receive the attached update. The report highlights the existence of continuing drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County. Review of this update by the Board fulfills the Board’s duty to review the need to continue the proclamation of a local emergency due to the existence of drought conditions pursuant to Government Code section 8630. No other Board action is necessary. (Note: Any regulations issued because of the local drought emergency would be subject to Board approval. The local Emergency Proclamation adopted by the Board on March 11, 2014, will remain in effect until terminated by your Board.)

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

At the onset of the Governor’s declaration and under the direction of the County Administrative Officer, a County Drought Task Force was formed. The Drought Task Force is comprised of multiple County departments, including: Administrative Office, County Office of Emergency Services, Public Works Department, General Services Agency, County Fire, County Agricultural Commissioner, County Planning and Building, Farm Advisor, County Health Agency, and County Counsel. All member departments provided input for this report.

County OES continues to be in in regular contact with the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to receive and provide situation status information.

The Public Works Department continues to coordinate with water purveyors and cities.

Public Health is coordinating with relevant state agencies, including the State California Department of Public Health and Emergency Medical Services Authority Health Coordination Center.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The long-term financial impact on the local economy, including the demand on County and other legal agency services, cannot be forecast at this time. The County continues to track drought related costs. To date, tracked labor costs associated with the drought total \$61,422.

RESULTS

Accepting the update prepared by the Drought Task Force, which establishes the existence of conditions of drought, confirms the need to continue the proclamation of a local emergency. Maintaining the proclamation of local emergency will continue to allow for the Public Works Department and other agencies to take immediate actions needed by allowing

temporary reduction of certain regulatory and purchasing requirements. This will also permit County staff to assist in drought-related work and tasks outside their normal scope of duties in the capacity of Disaster Service Workers under Government Code section 3100. In addition, acceptance of the update from the Task Force, confirms the continuing existence of severe drought conditions and will also serve as notice to the State of our dire conditions and a reminder to all of the serious drought conditions facing the County and State.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1: Monthly Drought Update 5-6-2014
2. Attachment 2: U.S Drought Monitor Map
3. Attachment 3: SLO Reservoir Conditions