

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

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 6/3/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Lisa Howe 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Third 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(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, 5/6/2014</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
781-5011

DATE: 6/3/2014

SUBJECT: Third 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 May 6, 2014. This is the third 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 May 22, 2014 indicates San Luis Obispo County remains at the D4 – Exceptional Drought intensity rating (Attachment 2). Precipitation levels throughout the County remain at approximately 34% of average annual totals. Local reservoir levels remain significantly lower than the average percentage capacity for this time of year including: Nacimiento 21%; Lopez 54%; Salinas 35%; and Whale Rock 59% of capacity (Attachment 3).

Statewide precipitation, snowpack and reservoir levels remain very low. The most recent update using automated devices shows snowpack at 9% of normal as of May 16. It is highly unlikely that precipitation totals will increase significantly over the coming months.

Impacts

As drought conditions worsen, agricultural, fire danger, and economic impacts continue to intensify. The latest University of California Cooperative Extension agricultural producer survey results indicate agricultural conditions continue to

deteriorate due to lack of moisture. It is estimated that 75% of livestock have been sold or moved out of the County. So far this year, state fire crews have battled 1,501 wildfires, which is more than double the year to date average of 805 wildfires. 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. The Department of Social Services is conducting monthly drought impact surveys to collect the number of layoffs, business closures, and Rapid Response actions occurring in our local area. Results of monthly surveys will be reported to the Board with future updates.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Drought 2014 publication (Attachment 4) provides information related to individual and family emergency needs referral, assistance programs, health care services, employment services, and programs for farmers, ranchers and other businesses.

Emergency Actions

Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Application

As stated in the May 6 Drought Update, Senate Bill 104 appropriated \$200 million of existing Proposition 84 Integrated 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.

Five projects were recommended by the Regional Water Management Group for inclusion in the IRWM grant application and subsequently endorsed by the Water Resources Advisory Committee. Additional information is provided in the *County Drought Task Force Key Actions from Last Month* section of Attachment 1. 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.

No other direct actions have been taken due to the proclamation of local emergency. However, as noted when the Proclamation was made, the Proclamation continues to provide authority for unforeseen needed actions. As also noted, Proclamation provides a statement to State and Federal agencies of the seriousness of the County's situation.

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 regular contact with Cal OES to receive and provide situation status information.

The Public Works Department continues to coordinate with local 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. As of May 19, 2014, tracked labor costs associated with the drought total \$97,200.

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
4. Attachment 4: Drought 2014 Assistance Brochure