

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

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 7/15/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Lisa Howe 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Thirty-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 thirty-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 { } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ___) {X} Board Business (Time Est. <u>15 Min</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances { } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: { } 4/5 Vote Required { } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Administrative Office / Lisa Howe
781-5011

DATE: 7/15/2014

SUBJECT: Thirty-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 thirty-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 June 17, 2014. This is the fifth 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 June 26, 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 19%; Lopez 52%; Salinas 32%; and Whale Rock 52% of capacity (Attachment 3).

Statewide precipitation, snowpack and reservoir levels remain very low. The most recent update of snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountains, using automated devices, shows snowpack at 0% of normal as of June 9. Fewer thunderstorms may occur this summer compared to the past two years, especially over the Sierras southward into the mountains of Southern California. Predictions indicate near to below normal summer precipitation for the central coast.

It is too early to tell how much rain may fall this winter; nevertheless, there is some hope on the meteorological horizon that this winter may not be as dry as the last three years. However, it would take an exceptionally wet winter to erase the

effects of the long term drought. A near normal amount of precipitation will help recover in the short term, but it would take several such years to recharge reservoirs in the state's water supply system.

Impacts

As drought conditions worsen, agricultural, fire danger, and economic impacts continue to evolve affecting different parts of the county in varying degrees. Agricultural conditions continue to deteriorate due to lack of moisture. Loss of income and reduced production levels continue throughout the county, affecting many commodities, as well as increased expenses from re-tooling irrigation systems. Producers are concerned about the long-term effects on soil conditions due to lack of moisture. In addition, producers are concerned about the predictions of an El Niño weather condition, which may bring abundant rain to the central coast. This may cause soil erosion, and damage to culverts and roads. An El Niño weather pattern is especially alarming for managers of deteriorated rangeland areas, with potential impacts dependent on the severity of the predicted El Niño.

Due to drought conditions, above normal large fire potential will continue across the state into summer. CAL FIRE has suspended all burning permits and open fire within the State Responsibility Area of California effective July 1, 2014. Locally, the continuous drying of both live and dead fuels has led to unprecedented dry fuel conditions that will likely continue for the remainder of the year or until there is significant rainfall. In order to reduce potential ignitions CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo has suspended all burning permits and open fires within the State Responsibility Areas and within the Local Responsibility Area under contract with CAL FIRE beginning July 1, 2014. The burn suspension will remain in effect until there is enough precipitation to reduce the fire threat.

As mentioned in previous updates, negative economic impacts continue to mount due to drought conditions. In addition to economic impacts to agricultural producers, drought-related job losses are continuing to increase across the state. The State's Labor & Workforce Development Agency requested that all local workforce boards provide real time information on the workforce impacts of the drought. As such, the Department of Social Services, on behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Workforce Investment Board, is collecting information from local employers to collect the number of layoffs, business closures, and Rapid Response actions occurring in our local area. To date there have been no reported business closures or reduction in workforce to report from the current network of individuals in San Luis Obispo County. In the coming months, the Department of Social Services plans to collaborate with economic development agencies including chambers of commerce and agriculture and tourism groups to increase survey response.

Conservation Efforts

County Facilities

General Services Agency continues to lead water conservation efforts at county facilities. To date, Facility Services has replaced 143 fixtures in 24 buildings to low-flow fixtures, saving an estimated 1500 gallons per week. In addition, water efficiency measures for County facilities, parks, and golf are being evaluated through PG&E's Sustainable Turnkey Solutions program. A report is expected to be available by mid-July.

Urban Water Supplier Drought Response Survey

Water conservation efforts by a majority of water suppliers in California show that water use has declined statewide by 5 percent through May 2014, according to survey results received by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). The survey results indicated that the Central Coast has had a 0% reduction in Urban Water Use from Jan-May 2014 compared to the 2011-13 Jan-May average.

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. 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. On June 17, 2014, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director or Interim Director of Public Works to file the grant application and execute the grant agreement with the California Department of Water Resources.

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 June 30, 2014, tracked labor costs associated with the drought total \$140,600.

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 7-15-2014
2. Attachment 2: U.S Drought Monitor Map
3. Attachment 3: SLO Reservoir Conditions