

RESOLUTION NO. 2015- 101

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MADERA DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN CALIFORNIA, WITH EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON SIERRA NEVADA COUNTIES DUE TO THE IMPACT AND IMPORTANCE OF WATERSHED HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, California's forests are important natural resources and tourist attractions for thousands of Californians, visitors from around the United States and the world, and serve an important role in the California economy; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of California's natural resources, including trees and forests, conservation of upper watershed areas, promotion of air quality and carbon sequestration, the educational opportunities trees and forests offer, the promotion of tourism, and the creation of sustainable jobs are all in the best interest of the public; and

WHEREAS, many scientists and experts believe and studies have shown that due to rising temperatures associated with climate change, four years of inadequate precipitation and drought conditions, and increased insect infestation, trees on both public lands and private lands are dying at unprecedented rates, with tree mortality rates ranging between 20% and 85% in several areas of the state and encompassing several million acres of land statewide, including in national parks and managed forests; and

WHEREAS, this unprecedented tree mortality disaster will adversely affect the watersheds that supply nearly two-thirds of the water used in California, dramatically increase the risk of large wildfires, diminish air quality, disrupt the food web, and result in increased mortality rates for wildlife and cause more greenhouse gases to be released; and

WHEREAS, said tree mortality disaster has continued and escalated in cumulative impacts to the County of Madera; and

WHEREAS, many scientists and experts agree that the best solution to protect the forests and trees is to remove dead and dying trees; and

WHEREAS, given the widespread scale of the tree mortality disaster, and the volume of trees that need to be removed, public property owners and local agencies cannot fully afford to undertake such tree removal efforts; and

WHEREAS, present local, statewide, and federal resources are inadequate to cope with the effects of this tree mortality disaster; and

WHEREAS, the timely removal of dead and dying trees on public lands and other areas is necessary in order to help protect and maintain watersheds and wildlife habitat, promote carbon sequestration, protect and restore forest resiliency, protect tourism and educational opportunities, and create jobs in rural communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MADERA RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The County of Madera calls upon Governor Brown to declare a tree mortality disaster and emergency in Madera County and other afflicted areas of the state.
2. The County of Madera requests that Governor Brown make funds available to Madera County and other public agencies to facilitate the safe and timely removal of dead and dying trees from public lands in order to protect and maintain watersheds and wildlife habitat, promote carbon sequestration, and protect and restore forest resiliency in national parks and managed forests.
3. The County of Madera requests that Governor Brown make available any and all State assistance programs and seek additional Federal assistance programs to provide relief to the public agencies and private individuals that have been harmed by this tree mortality disaster.
4. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of California and the Director of the State Office of Emergency Services.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted this 15TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2015, by the following vote:

Supervisor Frazier voted:

yes

Supervisor Rogers voted:

yes

Supervisor Farinelli voted:

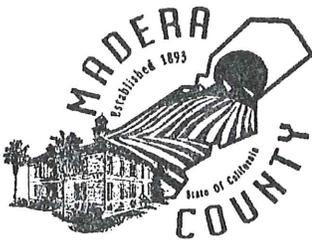
yes

Supervisor Rodriguez voted:

yes

Supervisor Wheeler voted:

yes



David B. Rogers
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Vanna Boyd
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS