



**Health & Human Services
Agency
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

J STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: August 8, 2017

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Andrew Lockman PHONE: 624-8000

SUBJECT: Reaffirm Resolution No.2015-0850, adopted October 6, 2015

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:
Reaffirm the Proclamation of a Local Emergency due to tree mortality in Tulare County Resolution No. 2015-0850.

SUMMARY:

On October 6, 2015, Tulare County proclaimed a Local Emergency due to tree mortality, as the current drought situation has caused a significant number of trees to die or become stressed and unable to defend against insect and disease infestations. The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on October 30, 2015.

In November 2016, the United States Forest Service released the results of the latest Aerial Detection Survey, which found an estimated 102 million dead trees across California, a 54% increase from June 2016 and an over 100% increase from 2015. While updated per-County figures have yet to be published in conjunction with the November 2016 survey, Tulare County had the highest concentration of any County in June 2016, with 8.1 million (or 12%) of the State's then-current estimate of 66 million dead trees. Assuming proportionate local growth, we can infer that approximately 12.5 million dead trees are now present in Tulare County.

Tulare County continues to participate in the State Tree Mortality Task Force, and facilitate a local Tree Mortality Task Force, in both instances bringing together the resources of local, State, and Federal partners, as well as utilities, subject matter experts, and relevant private interests, to better assess and respond to the impacts within the State and Tulare County in a coordinated, mutually-beneficial fashion.

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As was presented to the Board by the Resource Management Agency (RMA) on November 15, 2016, several Tulare County agencies including RMA, Fire, and Parks, in collaboration with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), are continuing to undertake projects to remove hazard trees threatening public infrastructure such as County road rights-of-way. Meanwhile, the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) continues similar efforts along State highways, utility companies continue clearing hazard trees threatening power lines (including service drops on private property), and the United States Forest Service continues to fall as many hazard trees as possible within the National Forests.

Severe conditions continue to pose increased public health and safety threats, including fire, falling trees/debris, and air quality hazards. Recent fires, including the Cedar and Rough Fires impacting Tulare County, the Erskine Fire in Kern County, and several others across the State serve as reminders of the extreme fire potential presented by prolonged drought and inadequate forest management. It is widely agreed that the rapid growth trend will continue, with the Forest Service recently noting that “millions of additional trees are weakened and expected to die in the coming months and years.”

The immediate and long-term ramifications of widespread tree mortality are likely to have a continued impact on the health and safety of Tulare County residents and visitors, and negatively impact Tulare County’s economy. As such, staff asks that the Board of Supervisors reaffirm the existence of the Local Emergency, as required by Government Code §8630(c).

The County has finished Phase I (removal of approximately 1,300 dead or dying hazard trees in the Balch Park/Bear Creek areas). This Board has approved Phase II which comprises the removal of hazardous trees in the Hartland area as well as work in the south valley (in particular in Posey, Sugarloaf, Panorama Heights and Poso). Community meetings have been conducted with residents and Right of Entry Permits are being secured from private land owners whose dead trees pose an imminent threat to the County roads and/or County infrastructure. Phase II began on April 10th.

The most vigorous tree removal projects continue to be conducted by Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric Company in mountainous areas where utility infrastructure is threatened. In the southern portion of Tulare County alone, SCE has reported to the Tulare County Tree Mortality Task Force that more than 100,000 hazard trees have been removed since January 1, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no cost associated with proclaiming or reaffirming a Local Emergency. The long-term fiscal impacts of tree mortality on the local economy, including demand on County services and economic losses related to increased fire activity cannot be accurately forecast at this time.

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LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Safety and Security initiative, with a directive to plan and provide coordinated emergency preparedness, response, and recovery and mitigation capabilities for both natural and man-made disasters. Proclaiming a local emergency facilitates the County's response to, recovery from, and mitigation against such disasters.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Jason T. Britt
Agency Director

Cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s) None

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF REAFFIRM RESOLUTION) Resolution No. _____
NO. 2015-0850, ADOPTED OCTOBER 6, 2015) Agreement No. _____

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: MICHAEL C. SPATA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

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Reaffirmed the Proclamation of a Local Emergency due to tree mortality in Tulare County
Resolution No. 2015-0850.