



**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: April 10, 2018

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. The unprecedented tree mortality in our area appears to be caused in part by years of prolonged drought, which in turn caused a significant number of trees to die or become stressed and unable to defend against insect and disease infestations. On October 30, 2015, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency due to tree mortality for several counties, including Tulare County. Two years later, the tree mortality emergency continues to present severe threats to the health and safety of residents and visitors to Tulare County. The latest Aerial Detection Survey results released on December 11, 2017, show that the number of dead or dying trees has doubled since June, 2016, with an estimated 25.2 million dead or dying trees in Tulare County and 129 million Statewide.

Tulare County continues to facilitate a local Tree Mortality Task Force and actively participates in the State Tree Mortality Task Force and many of its working groups, harnessing the collective efforts of numerous local, State, and Federal partners, as well as utilities, subject matter experts, and relevant private interests, to better respond in a coordinated, mutually-beneficial fashion.

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Over the past two years, the Resource Management Agency (RMA), Fire Department, and County Parks have collaborated with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and continue to undertake projects to remove hazard trees threatening public infrastructure such as County road rights-of-way. Similar efforts by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), United States Forest Service, and National Park Service continue within their respective jurisdictions, and utility companies continue to remove hazard trees threatening power lines, including service drops on private property.

Each of these stakeholder efforts are critical to improving public safety by mitigating falling debris hazards and reducing wildfire risk. As demonstrated by numerous fires such as the Pier, Cedar, and Rough Fires in Tulare County, as well as numerous major fires elsewhere in the State, Tulare County and California continue to experience significant wildfire threat, however, mitigation efforts such as hazard tree removal have been shown to reduce the risks that falling trees and wildfires pose to life and safety, in part by protecting infrastructure and critical evacuation routes.

As of September 2017, the County has completed removal of over 1,450 hazard trees in the areas of Balch Park/Bear Creek, Eshom Valley/Hartland, Posey, Sugarloaf, and Panorama Heights as part of Phases I and II of the ongoing tree removal project. The County has been notified that the application for \$550,378 from the Local Assistance for Tree Mortality (LATM) Grant Program to address emergency tree removal projects developed for Phase III tree removal has been approved. Phase III focuses on protecting critical evacuation routes in the areas of the Western Divide Highway, Parker Pass, Ponderosa, and Eshom. The LATM grant is intended to serve as the required 25% match to California Disaster Assistance Act funding to allow the County to complete up to \$2,201,512 of eligible tree removal work through January, 2020, on a reimbursement basis, without ultimately incurring a Net County Cost.

The immediate and long-term ramifications of widespread tree mortality continue to adversely impact the health and safety of Tulare County residents and visitors, and may have an adverse impact on Tulare County's economy. As such, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors reaffirm the existence of a Local Emergency, as required by Government Code §8630(c).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no cost associated with proclaiming or reaffirming a Local Emergency. Maintaining a local emergency allows the County to continue to be eligible for California Disaster Assistance Act funding. Tree removal projects are included in the Adopted Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget, and modifications to project financing will continue to be brought to the Board for approval prior to implementation. The recently announced Local Assistance for Tree Mortality grant may enable the County to perform additional tree removal work without additional Net County Cost, subject to Board approval.

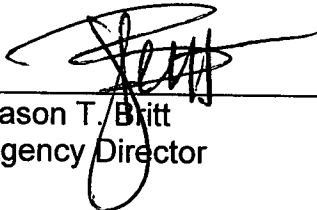
LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Safety and Security initiative, with

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a directive to plan and provide coordinated emergency preparedness, response, and recovery and mitigation capabilities for both natural and man-made disasters. Continuing the local emergency allows the County to continue to receive funding necessary to mitigate the threat to public safety.

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.