



**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  
EDDIE VALERO  
District Four  
DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** March 31, 2020 REVISED

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. Four 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 from June-August 2019 showed that the number of dead or dying trees increased in Tulare County by 1,409,000 and our total tree count is 30,359,000.

Tulare County continues to facilitate a local Tree Mortality Task Force and actively participates in the State's Forest Management 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. The County continues to work with funding agencies representatives both within and outside these Task Forces in order to secure grant funding in support of additional tree removal activities. Over the past three years, the Resource Management Agency (RMA), Fire

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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 the end of November 2019, the County has removed 10,005 hazard trees in the areas of Western Divide, Parker Pass, Balch Park/Bear Creek, Ponderosa, Eshom Valley/Hartland, Posey, Sugarloaf, and Panorama Heights. The County's tree removal activities continue to focus on protecting critical evacuation routes. Crews are currently removing hazard trees in the Western Divide area, with future work planned for the areas of Silver City, South Fork, and Camp Nelson, as well as supplemental work in the areas of Posey and Hartland.

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 at least every 60 days 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 and the associated Local Assistance for Tree Mortality grant. Specific tree removal projects and associated fiscal impacts will continue to be brought to the Board separately for the Board's consideration.

**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. Continuing the local emergency allows the County to continue to receive funding necessary to mitigate the threat to public safety.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

/s/Robert Stewart OBO

Timothy W. Lutz  
Agency Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

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: JASON T. BRITT  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

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