

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CURRY, OREGON

In the Matter of Declaring a Local)
Drought Emergency within Curry)
County and Requesting a Governor's)
Declaration of a State of Emergency)

RESOLUTION NO. R201529

WHEREAS, there are over 197 Agricultural producers, covering 63,342 acres, within Curry County, with \$33,782,000 in annual gross agricultural sales; and

WHEREAS, Curry County was successful in achieving a USDA Phyto-Sanitary Certificate rule change which allows said certification of cranberries, blueberries, strawberries and cherries for Oregon, Washington and Idaho and 99% of all cranberries grown in Oregon are cultivated in Curry and Coos Counties; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Curry County agricultural interests and municipal drinking water systems rely exclusively on stream flow for irrigation and drinking water, as opposed to reservoir storage; and

WHEREAS, Curry County has received only 60% of the average rainfall this calendar year and the lack of rainfall has caused a significant decrease in stream flow volume, with most tributary and estuary flow rates near or greatly exceeding mean and median record lows; and

WHEREAS, there is little chance of significant summer rainfall to increase stream flow and well aquifer volumes to adequate resource levels for agricultural, municipal and domestic needs; and

WHEREAS, the municipal water system for the City of Port Orford does not have a backup water source, relies solely on its Hubbard Creek impound, and loses over 40% of its treated water due to its aging transmission system, and the lack of rainfall to recharge the city's Hubbard Creek impound only exacerbates the threat of less than adequate flow levels for water treatment; and

WHEREAS, the municipal water system for the Harbor community is the Harbor Water District PUD, which relies solely on the flow of the Chetco River, and, the June 23rd Chetco River cubic feet per second flow data shows the cfs flow at 60% below the 1992 record low, 35% of the 45 year median cfs, and only 26% of the 45 year mean cfs, as shown by Exhibit A attached; and

WHEREAS, the Harbor Water District's intake is up river 2 miles from the sea and extracts water from the aquifer below the riverbed through a Ranney collector well down 35 feet into the south bank of the Chetco River from the aquifer zone of water-saturated rock, sand and gravel; and

WHEREAS, low Chetco River flows in the late summer of 2014, coupled with high tides and an intake placement two miles upstream, caused significant salt water intrusion into the Harbor Water District's municipal system, threatening the health of Harbor residents, the elderly, animals and agriculture production; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate rainfall has caused an increased risk of catastrophic wildfire throughout Curry County and currently the Buckskin Wildfire has burned over 4,993 acres in Curry County; and

WHEREAS, these drought conditions will have severe and negative economic and health impacts to Curry County and Curry County does not have the resources to assist with the depth of the needed adequate infrastructure, negative farming and agricultural corollaries, residential health concerns, and increased catastrophic wildfire dangers associated with the current drought condition due to the lack of adequate rainfall; and

WHEREAS, the Curry County Board of Commissioners has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the health and welfare of County residents, mitigate their economic hardships as well as those placed upon the agriculture industries and to be proactive to the threat of catastrophic wildfires, caused by the lack of adequate rainfall within Curry County.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY RESOLVES:

that a Local Drought Emergency is declared within Curry County; and

THE BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVES:

that Curry County does not possess the adequate resources to appropriately respond to the local emergency that is declared for the purposes of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide the appropriate resources where needed; and

THE BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVES:

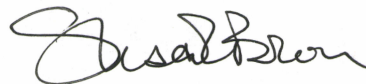
to request with this resolution, that the Honorable Kate Brown; Governor of Oregon, declare a State of Emergency and consider Curry County an "emergency area" as provided for in ORS 401.165 and provide such assistance as requested by Curry County and available by the State of Oregon; and

THE BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVES:

to request with this resolution, that the Honorable Kate Brown; Governor of Oregon, request additional assistance from Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture, and issue a Disaster Declaration for Curry County.

DATED this 29th day of June, 2015.

BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Susan Brown, Chair

Drafted By:
Commissioner David Brock Smith

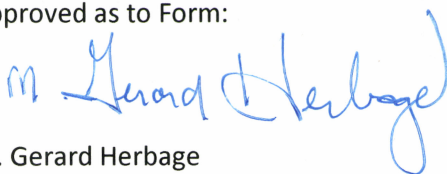


Thomas Huxley, Vice Chair



David Brock Smith, Commissioner

Approved as to Form:



M. Gerard Herbage
Curry County Legal Counsel

