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GOVERNMENT SERVICES DIVISION

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR LAKE COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of:)
Declaration of Local Disaster and Request to)
Declare a State Drought Emergency) **Resolution 2018-02**
for Lake County, Oregon)

WHEREAS, on this 21st day of March 2018, the Lake County Board of Commissioners finds that the Lake County agricultural and livestock industries, and related economy are suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county; and

WHEREAS, annual water supplies available for irrigators and ranchers within Lake County are a function of both available water storage in the Chewaucan River, Deep Creek, Thomas Creek, Drews Creek, Honey Creek, Silver Creek and Twentymile Creek and in various reservoirs (including Thompson, Cottonwood and Drews), and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. February precipitation was 48% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October – March 1) has been 70% of average. As of March 1, 2018, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 51% of average at Cottonwood Reservoir to 114% of average at Drews Reservoir. Water supplies are in serious jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, YOUR County has approximately 45,000 acres of irrigated ground from stored water. 45,000 acres will be out of water between April 1 and May 1 and about 147,000 acres in other outlying areas will be out of water between April 1 and May 1 and about 84,000 acres of land irrigated from well may also be affected; and

WHEREAS, many long-time Lake County farmers and ranchers have commented that they have not seen water conditions this severe since 2015; and

WHEREAS, the extended weather forecast for Lake County projects increased chances of below-normal temperatures in the north and northwestern half of Oregon with equal chances of above or below-normal temperatures for the rest of the state. The precipitation outlook for the same period indicates equal chances of above or below-normal precipitation for most of the state. and

WHEREAS, the above conditions result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season, and decreased water supplies for Lake County agricultural and livestock producers. In addition, this multi-year cumulative drought has resulted in decreased fuel moisture and early onset fire danger; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate suffering of people and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Lake County Board of Commissioners that:

- 1 A local disaster is declared within Lake County.
- 2 The Lake County Drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
- 3 Pursuant to ORS 401.015 (2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Lake County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
- 4 **Request:** The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare a Drought Emergency for all of Lake County under the provisions of ORS 401.055 due to severe and continuing drought conditions beginning at this time and continuing for an unknown period of time; **and** direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources to make available in Lake County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, and Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement; **and** other federal and state drought assistance and programs as needed.
- 5 This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

Bradley J. Winters, Lake County Board of Commissioners Chair



Ken Kestner, Lake County Board of Commissioners Vice-Chair

Absent

Dan Shoun, Lake County Commissioner

