

**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. R 2020-12**

**WHEREAS**, in 2001 and 2015 Curry County experienced severe droughts. In 2020, based on below normal snow water equivalent in southwestern Oregon and low precipitation, southwestern Oregon is currently the driest region in the state with well below normal snowpack and precipitation. As a result, it is predicted Curry County will experience severe drought conditions; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to the decreased amount of snowmelt, and below average precipitation, stream flows in February were 30% of their normal flow in southern Oregon, being the lowest in the state. Many of the South Coast of Oregon rivers and streams do not benefit significantly from snowmelt; however, the County's two main arterials, the Rogue River and the Chetco River, are greatly influenced by snowmelt ; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to the improper management of the Lost Creek Dam, fewer fish are in the Rogue River; within the last few years Curry County has been devastated by forest fires, and the associated runoff has polluted our rivers; and now, with COVID 19, residents are out of work and businesses are facing financial ruin; and,

**WHEREAS**, the predicted drought will financially destroy an already distressed county by destroying the fishing and recreational boating industry and associated tourism benefactors; impact municipal water supplies and result in salinization; limit irrigation and negatively affect agriculture; create even more dry conditions to potentially wreak havoc on the forests for which Curry County relies heavily on for timber and their recreation industry; and limit the availability of water for housing in a county with an Emergency Housing Declaration currently in place; and,

**WHEREAS**, declaring a Local Drought Emergency will allow residents to access critical resources needed to survive the drought. As an example, should the Governor declare a State of Emergency, residents could access emergency drought tools for water right holders, such as temporary emergency water use permits; temporary drought transfers (allows a water user to change the type of use, place of use, or location of a diversion under an existing water right); temporary instream leases; temporary substitutions (allows the use of a supplemental water right); special option agreements; temporary exchanges of water; and, allow the Water Resources Commission to grant a temporary preference to water rights for human

consumption and/or stock watering uses. A declaration may also result in Small Business Administration Loans to distressed businesses, and, other financial relief needed for farmers and residents.


**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY RESOLVES** a Local Drought Emergency is declared for Curry County, Oregon, and, requests Governor Kate Brown issue an Executive Order for Curry County under the provisions of ORS 536 as a direct result of severe and projected drought conditions.

**DATED THIS** 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020.

**BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Absent At Signing**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher S Paasch, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Court Boice, Vice-Chair 4-13-20

  
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Sue Gold, Commissioner

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Hutt  
Curry County Counsel