

COUNTY OF BAKER
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, the County of Baker on this 2nd day of September, 2020 has determined that the Baker County agricultural industry, and related economy is suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from extreme cyclical weather conditions within the county.

And

Baker County's precipitation is over 6 inches below normal and almost 4 inches below last year for the water year beginning October 1, 2019.

And

Phillips Reservoir, the largest water reservoir in the county, is at 19% and contains 10,392 acre-feet less than it did at the same time last year. There is also a large percentage of land in the county that is not under a stored water project.

And

The Fire Danger level which takes into account fuel moistures changed very rapidly from Low to Extreme in 16 days.

And

These disaster conditions have resulted in loss of economic stability, and decreased water supplies for Baker County agricultural producers.

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners, have determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the 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 Baker County Board of Commissioners:

- Section 1. That a local disaster is declared within Baker County.
- Section 2. That the Baker County EOP, Drought Annex plan has been implemented.
- Section 3. That a drought declaration under Oregon Revised Statute 563 be used to allow the Water Resources Department to use a number of water-related tools that include temporary drought permits to use

groundwater.

Section 4. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

Section 5. The Board of Commissioners, request that the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor, of the State of Oregon declare: "A Local Disaster and State of Emergency" exists in Baker County.


And

Request the Honorable, Sonny Perdue, Secretary, of the United States Department of Agriculture, to expedite assistance to local agricultural industries/producers who have suffered extensive and ongoing loss from the drought and associated wildfires

ORDERED this 2nd day of September, 2020



William "Bill" Harvey, Chair
Board of Commissioners



Bruce Nichols
Commissioner



Mark Bennett
Commissioner