

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 21-06-22-10

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL
EMERGENCY FOR LANE COUNTY AS A
RESULT OF CURRENT AND PROJECTED
EXTREME DROUGHT WEATHER.

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners finds that the Lane County agricultural, livestock and forest products industries, and related businesses, are experiencing economic hardship and potential serious injury and losses resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county; and

WHEREAS, as of May 17, 2021 the U.S. Drought Monitor indicates 100 percent of the State of Oregon is experiencing some form of drought conditions. Drought intensity has worsened over recent weeks due to extremely dry soil moisture profiles, a significant lack of precipitation, and warmer temperatures. Coverage of D4 (exceptional drought) conditions has expanded into southern Deschutes County, while D3 (extreme drought) coverage has expanded in central Oregon and has extended west into Jackson, Douglas, and Lane counties; and

WHEREAS, weather forecasts for Lane County project higher than normal temperatures and below average precipitation for the next several months; and

WHEREAS, the McKenzie and Willamette rivers are experiencing extremely low natural flow levels such that all irrigation districts dependent upon water flows from those rivers will be impacted; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions endanger crops and livestock, endanger the health and safety of the county's population, jeopardize economic vitality within the county, and imperil the quality of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Small Business Administration is making Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to Lane County businesses to cover both the economic impacts on farmers and ranchers that suffer agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster; and

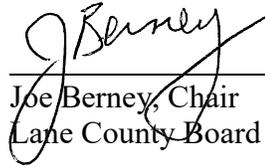
WHEREAS; these drought conditions will result in the loss of economic stability, decreased feed and pasture production, shortened growing seasons and decreased water supplies for Lane County agricultural producers. In addition a multi-year cumulative drought has resulted in decreased fuel moisture and early onset fire danger; and

WHEREAS; the Lane County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of citizens and livestock and to protect from or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. A local disaster for the drought emergency is declared within Lane County; and
2. Pursuant to ORS 401.165, we are declaring a state of emergency for the purposes of protecting local economy through the Oregon Water Resources Departments authority to mitigate the impact of low stream flows on the Willamette main stem; and
3. Governor Kate Brown is requested to declare a Drought Emergency for all of Lane County under the provisions of ORS 401.165, due to severe and continuing drought conditions to begin at this time and continue for an unknown period of time; and to direct the Oregon Water Resources Department to make available in Lane County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreements.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of June, 2021.



Joe Berney, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners