

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
2 **FOR LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON**
3

4 In the Matter of:) **ORDER NO. 6-21-204**
5 *Declaration of Local Disaster and Request*)
6 *To Declare a State Drought Emergency*)
7 *For Lincoln County, Oregon*)
8

9 WHEREAS on this 28th day of June, 2021, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners finds that
10 the Lincoln County resource based (including but limited to, forestry, agricultural, fisheries,
11 industries, and tourism) and related economy are suffering widespread and severe economic
12 damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from extreme weather conditions within
13 the County; and
14

15 WHEREAS annual water supplies available for farm, forest, recreation and natural uses as well as
16 municipal water supplies within Lincoln County are a function of available water in the County
17 watersheds and in various tributaries. Water supplies are in serious jeopardy this year; and
18

19 WHEREAS the Siletz River as of June 28, 2021, is flowing at 56% of average for this time of
20 year.¹ It is forecast to approach record daily minimums very shortly. The Alsea River is
21 discharging at 50% of average for this time of year and already has set record historical daily
22 minimums.² Historically, seasonal hydrological averages for both watersheds trend down from
23 now until September.
24

25 WHEREAS Lincoln County on Monday, June 21st declared a drought watch in anticipation that a
26 formal drought declaration would be occurring shortly.
27

28 WHEREAS members of the Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium (Seal Rock Water
29 District, and cities of Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo, Yachats and Waldport) are working on plans
30 to increase water conservation awareness and actions and increase resiliency during droughts and
31 emergencies through alignment of mitigation and response activities, sharing conservation
32 resources, and provision of consistent messaging to water consumers. The Mid-Coast Water
33 Conservation Consortium met on Wednesday, June 23rd, to coordinate messaging on water
34 conservation and curtailment for use by members; municipal water providers are moving or have

¹ <https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?lid=SILO3>

² <https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?lid=TIDO3>

35 moved to a stage 1 alert for public education and voluntary water conservation actions.
36 Curtailment plans are being developed.

37

38 WHEREAS in September of 2020 Lincoln County and the State of Oregon experienced one of the
39 most severe wildfire seasons in the County's history. The Echo Mountain Complex Wildfire
40 ravaged a large area of north Lincoln County, destroying or damaging over 300 residences and
41 structures, and requiring the evacuations of thousands of persons. Survivors are still engaged in
42 recovery and rebuilding as another fire season is imminent; and

43

44 WHEREAS the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is maintaining Industrial Fire Precaution
45 Level 0 (Fire Season Not in Effect) for Lincoln County.³ The United States Forest Services is
46 indicating LOW fire danger in the Siuslaw National Forest.⁴ The Lincoln County Fire Defense
47 Board has restricted backyard burning effective June 1, about four weeks earlier than normal;⁵ and

48

49 WHEREAS the extended weather forecast for Lincoln County projects higher than normal
50 temperatures for July and August, and near average precipitation for June shifting to below average
51 precipitation in July⁶; and

52

53 WHEREAS multiple priority instream water rights on both the Alsea and Siletz Rivers will be
54 invoked in the very near future to protect the aquatic life, recreation and fish and wildlife flows
55 protected by those priority rights. Junior rights holders will be regulated off use of their water
56 rights and will not be able to draw water in those circumstances. This will result in a loss of
57 economic stability, lost growing season, and decreased water supplies for Lincoln County
58 agricultural producers and municipal water suppliers. In addition, river water temperatures are
59 already at unseasonable highs and restricted fishing access will likely be put in place very soon to
60 protect fish stocks; and

61

62 WHEREAS the current fire season continues the recent years' trend of early burn bans and low
63 humidity. A red flag warning was issued in April of 2021 which is the earliest warning in recent
64 memory; and

65

66 WHEREAS the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures
67 must be taken to alleviate suffering of people, natural resources and to protect or mitigate economic

³ <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/restrictions.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.fs.usda.gov/siuslaw>

⁵ <https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/emergencymanagement/page/seasonal-hazards-wildfire>

⁶ <https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/climate/droughtwatch/Pages/GovDeclDrought.aspx>

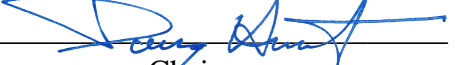
68 loss, begin water conservation and curtailment plans and actions, and to be responsive to the threat
69 of wildfires.

70
71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners that:

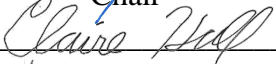
- 72
- 73 1. A local disaster is declared within Lincoln County.
- 74
- 75 2. Pursuant to ORS 401.032(2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of
- 76 Lincoln County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment,
- 77 evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
- 78
- 79 3. Request: The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare a Drought Emergency
- 80 for all of Lincoln County under the provisions of ORS 401.165 due to severe and continuing
- 81 drought conditions beginning at this time and continuing for an unknown period of time; and
- 82 direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources to make available in Lincoln County
- 83 appropriate and available tools and resources to alleviate drought conditions and impacts and
- 84 to provide other federal and state drought assistance and programs as needed.
- 85
- 86 5. In addition, we call on the Mid-Coast Conservation Consortium and other public and private
- 87 water purveyors to begin water conservation education and specific curtailment activities as
- 88 appropriate to address the current drought conditions and the continued drought emergencies
- 89 that are expected this summer and fall.
- 90
- 91 4. This Order shall take effect immediately.
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Dated this 28th day of June, 2021

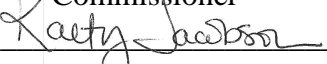
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



 Chair



 Commissioner



 Commissioner