

**IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF YAMHILL  
SITTING FOR THE TRANSACTION OF COUNTY BUSINESS**

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL	)	
EMERGENCY FOR YAMHILL COUNTY AS A	)	BOARD ORDER 21-354
RESULT OF CURRENT AND PROJECTED EXTREME	)	RESOLUTION 21-8-19-3
DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND REQUEST TO	)	
DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR	)	
YAMHILL COUNTY, OREGON	)	

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF YAMHILL COUNTY, OREGON (the "Board") sat for the transaction of county business in formal session on August 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in a virtual meeting via Zoom, Commissioners, Mary Starrett, Lindsay Berschauer and Casey Kulla being present.

*WHEREAS*, forecasts for most western Oregon streams, particularly those draining the coastal mountains, have been reduced drastically compared to 3 months ago. Much of the state is already drought stressed due to dry conditions over the past 18 months; and

*WHEREAS*, based on spring conditions and the summer outlook, there are likely to be significant and widespread drought impacts this summer, including stressed vegetation, increased fire danger, reduced water availability for agricultural and municipal supply, limited access for reservoir recreation, reduced agricultural yield, low streamflow and warm water temperatures which negatively impact fish habitat, and poor rangeland conditions for livestock and wildlife grazing; and

*WHEREAS*, water supply forecasts for April-September runoff volume are below average for most of Oregon, especially central and south-central Oregon. For most watersheds, the predicted runoff volume is the lowest or one of the lowest on record. The only watersheds with near-normal water supply forecasts are in north-central and northeast Oregon. With generally dry conditions since early March, most water supply forecasts have decreased 30 to 60 percent over the past three months; and

*WHEREAS*, as of August 12, 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. The coverage of D2 (Severe Drought) conditions remains in place for Yamhill County in its entirety; and

*WHEREAS*, Turner Creek, which supplies water to the City of Yamhill, is experiencing low flow rates, greatly diminishing the amount of water being supplied to the City of Yamhill and the nine (9) water districts it serves. The City of Yamhill has declared a Level III water emergency, cutting outside watering activities, in an effort to maintain safe drinking water levels for residents; and

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

*WHEREAS*, the Yamhill 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; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners Orders as follows:

1. A local disaster for the drought emergency is declared within Yamhill County; and
2. Pursuant to ORS 401.165, the Board finds that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Yamhill County and we are declaring a state of emergency for the purposes of (i) assessment, evaluation, and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources, and (ii) protecting the local economy through the Oregon Water Resources Department's authority to mitigate the impact of low stream flows on Turner Creek; and
3. Governor Kate Brown is requested to declare a Drought Emergency for all of Yamhill County under the provisions of ORS 401.165 and ORS 536.740, 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 Yamhill County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreements and other Federal and State drought assistance and programs as needed.

DONE this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021 at McMinnville, Oregon.

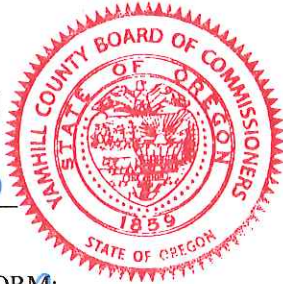
ATTEST

BRIAN VAN BERGEN  
County Clerk

By: Carolina Rook  
Deputy Carolina Rook

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: Christian F. Boenisch  
Christian F. Boenisch  
Yamhill County Counsel



YAMHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Starrett  
Chair MARY STARRETT

Lindsay Berschauer  
Vice-Chair LANDSAY BERSCHAUER

Casey Kulla  
Commissioner CASEY KULLA

Accepted by Yamhill County  
Board of Commissioners on  
8/19/21 by Board Order  
# 21-354