

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR MORROW COUNTY, OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING)
A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY) RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-05
IN MORROW COUNTY)

THIS MATTER COMING BEFORE THE Morrow County Board of Commissioners sitting as the County governing body on March 4, 2026, at a regularly scheduled meeting;

WHEREAS, information has been provided to the Morrow County Board of Commissioners that a drought is occurring in Morrow County and that protective actions may be or are required to protect the citizens of Morrow County;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has designated Morrow County as a contiguous disaster county due to drought, enabling producers in the County eligible for emergency aid, with a moderate drought monitor condition;

WHEREAS, the Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District supports the emergency declaration of drought in Morrow County;

WHEREAS, over 50% of Morrow County is currently in an moderate drought designation according to the U.S. Drought Monitor as of 2/24/2026;

WHEREAS, unless weather conditions improve substantially to above normal conditions, water users who rely on stored water will have a shortened water use season, and depending upon the priority date of their water right, water users who rely on stream flows will have substantially less water available and a shortened water use season;

WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in severe economic hardship to Morrow County, including shortages of livestock forage, loss of agricultural interests, and increased chance of wildfire;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners resolves that:

1. A state of emergency exists in Morrow County due to drought conditions.
2. Due to the state of emergency, the Morrow County Board of Commissioners does hereby request and entreat the Honorable Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, to:
 - A. Declare a "State of Emergency," a drought, to exist in Morrow County, Oregon under ORS 536;

- B. Direct the Oregon Water Resources Department to provide all available means of assistance to Morrow County agricultural producers.
- C. Direct Office of Emergency Management to coordinate and assist as needed, to address current and projected conditions in Morrow County.
- D. Direct all other state agencies to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined necessary to assist those affected in Morrow County.

Dated this 4th day of March 2026.

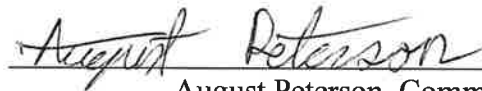
**MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MORROW COUNTY, OREGON**



David Sykes, Chair



Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner



August Peterson, Commissioner