

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF AMADOR, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

RESOLUTION DECLARING LOCAL STATE)
OF EMERGENCY IN AMADOR COUNTY)
DUE TO PERVASIVE TREE MORTALITY)

RESOLUTION NO. 21-151

WHEREAS, On October 20, 2015, Governor Brown of the State of California, issued an Executive Order related to unprecedented tree mortality due to drought conditions, directed state agencies to begin collaborating and partnering with local government to take action to remove dead and dying trees threatening public safety and infrastructure and approved California Disaster Assistance Act funding to assist in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 8630 empowers the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property and are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this County; and

WHEREAS, On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown proclaimed a Drought State of Emergency as the State is experiencing the most severe drought in history with four years of below average rain and snow; and

WHEREAS, On December 14, 2015, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection issued a news release stating “even with recent rains it will likely take years to slow down the massive tree mortality and bark beetle infestation”; and

WHEREAS, The latest aerial survey estimated that between 2010 and 2019, over 162.7 million trees have died across California as a result of the drought and the effects of bark beetle infestation; and

WHEREAS, Tree mortality from bark beetle infestation has accelerated over the past few months in Amador County; and

WHEREAS, On July 31, 2015, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of emergency due to a series of wildfires statewide citing drought conditions which have increased the State’s risk of wildfires and caused millions of trees to die; and

WHEREAS, Beginning on September 9, 2015 the Butte Fire in Amador and Calaveras County destroyed 921 structures including; 549 homes, 368 outbuildings, and 4 commercial properties, caused power loss to thousands of homes and business, and thousands of families to evacuate their homes, all resulting in part from dead and dying trees caused by drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, Unless the risks posed by dead, dying and diseased trees are immediately abated, there will remain a significantly increased risk to life and property, and interruption of essential services; and

WHEREAS, The magnitude of the Butte Fire tree mortality and the pervasive tree mortality in other parts of the County represents a threat that is beyond the capacity of the County (public and private) services, personnel, equipment and facilities and requires coordination and assistance from State and Federal agencies.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Amador County Board of Supervisors do hereby find that the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of a local emergency in Amador County and imminent threat of disaster as the result of tree mortality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amador County Board of Supervisors does hereby establish a tree mortality taskforce and charge it to develop a risk abatement plan, coordinate agency, organization and citizen efforts, seek funding, resolve barriers, and maximize County resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Amador requests the State of California include Amador County in the list of Priority Counties within the California Tree Mortality Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Amador requests the assistance of the State of California in the coordination of resources to assist in the removal of dead and dying trees due to drought and bark beetle infestation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Amador requests the state of California to waive or expedite regulations, permits and permit fees that may hinder response and recovery efforts, make available assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other state funding, and to expedite access to federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said local State of Emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of Amador, State of California.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in the County of Amador at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 26th day of October, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Richard M. Forster, Brian Oneto, Patrick Crew
NOES: None
ABSENT: Frank U. Axe, Jeff Brown


Richard M. Forster, Vice Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

JENNIFER BURNS, Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors, Amador County,
California


Deputy