



RESOLUTION NO. 053-2016

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

Proclamation of Local Emergency Due to Tree Mortality in the County of El Dorado

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8630 (a) provides that a local emergency may be proclaimed only by the governing body of a county or by an official designated by ordinance adopted by that governing body; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8558 (c) defines a “local emergency” as the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county caused by conditions that include drought and plant infestation or disease which are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the local agency and which requires the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2014, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency in the State of California due to the severe drought conditions throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2014, the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado, through the adoption of Resolution 179-2014, declared a local State of Emergency throughout the County due to the drought conditions that have been persistent in the County since January 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado has deemed that said local State of Emergency continues to exist with the Board’s continued approval of Resolution 179-2014, as required by Government Code Section 8630 (c); and

WHEREAS, the record drought conditions and lack of precipitation that have persisted throughout the State of California and the County of El Dorado for the last four years have made trees susceptible to epidemic infestations of the native bark beetle; and

WHEREAS, data collected by state and federal agencies demonstrate that due to drought conditions and bark beetle infestation, over 22 million trees in the State of California are dead and that tens of millions more are likely to die over the next five to six years; and

WHEREAS, surveys conducted by the U.S. Forest Service in August 2015 estimate that tree mortality in the County of El Dorado has affected 200,000 trees on 62,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2015, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency due to unprecedented tree mortality due to drought conditions and resulting bark beetle infestations and has ordered all state agencies, utilities, and local governments to undertake efforts to remove dead or dying trees in order to provide for the protection of the public and infrastructure and to restore forest watershed and health; and

WHEREAS, while this State of Emergency is in effect statewide, tree mortality has reached epidemic levels throughout the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains and is now aggressively expanding across the entire Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada Range that includes the County of El Dorado and the neighboring Counties of Amador and Placer; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2015, the County of Placer adopted Resolution 2015-253, proclaiming a Local Emergency due to tree mortality in Placer County; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2016, the County of Amador adopted Resolution 16-021, declaring a Local State of Emergency in Amador County due to pervasive tree mortality; and

WHEREAS, this unprecedented level of tree mortality presents a risk to the safety of county residents and public infrastructure due to falling trees; heightens the threat of catastrophic wildfire; increases the prevalence of erosion; and threatens the overall health of our forests and local watershed; and

WHEREAS, despite recent levels of precipitation, the conditions that exist due to the extended drought and widespread tree mortality exacerbate already perilous fire conditions threatening towns and communities throughout the County of El Dorado; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the County of El Dorado implement immediate and aggressive measures to identify, isolate, treat and/or fell the trees that are dead and dying as a result of factors that include, but are not limited to, extreme and prolonged drought, bark beetles and other parasites in order to immediately reduce the risks to public safety, infrastructure, forest health and the communities that are critical to our economy; and

WHEREAS, it is further imperative that the County of El Dorado implement immediate and aggressive measures, in collaboration with state, federal and local agencies and private partners, to identify, isolate, treat and/or fell the dead and dying trees that threaten public safety, infrastructure, forest health and the communities that are critical to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby find:

That conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said County, caused by extreme drought conditions and plant infestation and disease resulting in pervasive tree mortality; and

That these conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of said County and will require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat.

