



RESOLUTION No. 17-545

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION CONTINUING THE PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN NEVADA COUNTY DUE TO EXTREME TREE MORTALITY RESULTING IN EXTREME LEVELS OF COMBUSTIBLE FUELS AND THE SEVERE THREAT OF WILDFIRES

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8630 and Chapter III 2.6 of the Nevada County Code empowers the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property that is likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this county; and

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with California Government Code section 8550, provides state assistance and resources to local jurisdictions in the event of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, Since 2012, California has experienced four years of record drought, resulting in widespread tree mortality and a major bark beetle epidemic; and

WHEREAS, US Forest Service and Cal Fire have reported that there are over 102 million dead trees due to drought and bark beetle infestation; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2015, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency for all of California specifically due to tree mortality, and has ordered all state agencies, utilities, and local governments to undertake efforts to remove dead or dying trees in order to restore forest and watershed health; and

WHEREAS, data collected by state and federal agencies demonstrate that tree mortality has reached epidemic levels across the entire western slope of the Sierra Nevada range, which includes a large portion of Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2016, by Resolution 16-468, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency related to extreme tree mortality; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2016, by Resolution 16-511, the Board of Supervisors declared the continuation of the local emergency related to extreme tree mortality; and subsequently adopted continuing proclamations on: November 15, 2016, by Resolution 16-553; December 13, 2016 by Resolution 16-578; January 10, 2017 by Resolution 17-022; January 24, 2017 by Resolution 17-059; February 14, 2017 by Resolution 17-075; March 14, 2017 by Resolution 17-121; April 11, 2017 by Resolution 17-163; May 9, 2017 by Resolution 17-204; May 23, 2017 by Resolution 17-230; June 13, 2017 by Resolution 17-262; and July 11, 2017 by Resolution 17-381; August 8, 2017 by Resolution 17-416, August 15, 2017 by Resolution 17-439; September 12, 2017 by Resolution 17-466; and October 10, 2017 by Resolution 17-511; and

WHEREAS, the data continues to predict further tree mortality increases in the very near future, resulting in stands of dead/dying trees that constitute extremely dangerous levels of combustible fuels, directly contributing to the severity and scale of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, while Nevada County experienced normal and above normal levels of precipitation during the 2017 winter season, which may reduce tree mortality in the long term, this disaster will continue to be unabated and escalate during the next two to three years due to the existing standing of dead trees that will fall, thereby constituting immediate threats to public safety, wildfire egress points, and public and private infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 summer fire season has already resulted in many catastrophic wildfires in Nevada County and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California has declared a state of emergency for wildfires in counties which were heavily impacted by drought-related tree mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors does find that the aforesaid conditions and scope of extreme peril warrant and necessitate continuing the proclamation of a Local Emergency, Resolution 16-468, dated September 13, 2016 and that local resources are unable to cope with the effects of this extreme peril; and

WHEREAS, the County desires that the Governor of the State of California continue to declare a state emergency for tree mortality on behalf of Nevada County and provide assistance through the California Disaster Assistance Act, and that the Governor request a federal emergency declaration for the County of Nevada and provide and expedite access to all available federal resources, aid and relief programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, hereby continues the local emergency proclamation issued by the Board of Supervisors in connection with extreme tree mortality, and declares that there is a continuing need to maintain said emergency proclamation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors further directs as follows:

1. This Proclamation of the Continued Existence of Local Emergency shall be renewed at least every thirty (30) days and is deemed to continue to exist as provided by state law or until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada.
2. Directs that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services, or his designee, and the emergency organization of the County shall be those prescribed by state law, local ordinance and resolutions of this county approved by the Board of Supervisors, and by the Nevada County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors.
3. The Director of Emergency Services for the County of Nevada, is hereby designated as the authorized representative of the County of Nevada for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available State and Federal assistance.
4. Directs that a certified copy of this resolution proclaiming a local emergency be forwarded to the Governor of California with a request that he proclaim the County of Nevada to be in a state of emergency, and request that the State of California waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts, to make available recovery assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act, and to expedite access to federal resources and any other appropriate federal relief programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a special meeting of said Board, held on the 7th day of November, 2017, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Hank Weston and Richard Anderson.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By:  _____



Hank Weston, Chair