



RESOLUTION No. _____

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTINUING PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN NEVADA COUNTY DUE TO EXTREME TREE MORTALITY

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, California is in its fifth year 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 66 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, this data predicts 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, if Nevada County were to experience normal or above normal levels of precipitation this winter, this disaster will continue to be unabated and escalate during the next two to four years due to the 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 Board of Supervisors does find that the aforesaid conditions and scope of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the continuing proclamation of a Local Emergency, Resolution No. 16-468, dated September 13, 2016 and that local resources are unable to cope with the effects of this extreme peril; and

WHEREAS, the California Office of Emergency Services requires a Right of Entry (ROE) form to be completed by private property owners if Tree Mortality work activities are done on private property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California hereby:

1. Proclaims the existence of a local emergency and said emergency shall continue until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors.
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. Authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to sign Right of Entry forms on behalf of the County for Tree Mortality work activities on private property which could protect public infrastructure.
4. Directs that a certified copy of this resolution proclaiming a local emergency be forwarded to the Governor of California with a request the 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.