



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 20, 2021

PRESIDENT
Dennis Rodoni
4TH DISTRICT

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Marin County Declaration of Emergency Due to Drought Conditions

VICE PRESIDENT
Judy Arnold
5TH DISTRICT

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully urge that you further expand the statewide declaration of emergency relating to drought conditions to include the County of Marin.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Damon Connolly
1ST DISTRICT

On May 18, the Marin County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency and imminent threat of disaster due to drought conditions in our County (please see the attached). As you know, much of California is in a second consecutive year of extremely dry conditions due to historically low rainfall totals, causing extreme drought conditions. Marin's two largest water suppliers, the Marin Municipal Water District and the North Marin Water District, have declared water shortage emergencies due to record-low rainfall this past winter and were the first in the Bay Area to impose mandatory use restrictions on residents.

Katie Rice
2ND DISTRICT

Stephanie Moulton-Peters
3RD DISTRICT

In Marin, the situation for ranchers, especially dairies, is grim and deteriorating rapidly. Several dairies have been importing water by truck for months to keep their animals alive and Marin's oldest dairy, McClure's Dairy on the Point Reyes National Seashore, has already closed due to the drought. We are concerned more will follow. With far less grass on the ground, many ranchers have also resorted to importing feed from other states at extremely high cost.

Matthew H. Hymel
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CLERK OF THE BOARD

As Marin County and our local municipal and private water systems that depend on rainfall for their yearly supply seek out additional and more costly sources of water and continue extraordinary efforts to conserve water for essential uses, we respectfully urge the state to expand the statewide declaration of emergency to include Marin. We also urge that you request a presidential disaster declaration of emergency in concert with the 41 California counties already included in the statewide emergency.

Diane Patterson
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD

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Sincerely,

Dennis Rodoni, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors

Attachment: Resolution of the Marin County Board of Supervisors Declaring a Local Emergency and Imminent Threat Due to Drought Conditions

Cc: Senator Mike McGuire
Assembly Member Marc Levine
Marin County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-27
RESOLUTION OF THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT THREAT OF DISASTER
DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 8630, Article 14 of the California Emergency Services Act and Section 2.99, et seq., of the Marin County Code empower the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin, or the County's Director of Emergency Services or Assistant Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when said County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, climate change is intensifying the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment and economy, and we must all therefore improve drought resiliency and prepare to respond to more frequent, prolonged, and intense dry periods; and

WHEREAS, much of the West is experiencing severe to exceptional drought and California is in a second consecutive year of extremely dry conditions due to historically low rainfall totals, resulting in extreme drought conditions in the entire Bay Area, including in Marin County; and

WHEREAS, these drought conditions result in degraded water quality, fallowing of productive farmland, setbacks to vulnerable and rural communities through job losses and longer-lasting recoveries, significant impacts to commercial and recreational salmon fisheries, constraints on access to traditional lifeways, loss of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, and ecosystem impacts; and

WHEREAS, to date in the region, rainfall totals for the current water year are approximately 40% percent of average for Marin County; and

WHEREAS, due to the current drought conditions in the County, the County's two largest water suppliers, the Marin Municipal Water District and the North Marin Water District, have declared Water Shortage Emergencies within their respective service areas pursuant to Water Code Section 350 et seq. and enacted mandatory water conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2021, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture designated 50 California counties, including Marin County, as primary natural disaster areas due to drought; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2021, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency in Sonoma County and Mendocino County due to extreme drought conditions, and on May 10, 2021 significantly expanded this drought emergency proclamation to add 39 additional counties where accelerated action is needed to protect public health, safety and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Russian River in Sonoma County provides Marin County's largest water supplier, the Marin Municipal Water District, nearly 25% of its water supply and the County's second largest water supplier, the North Marin Water District, approximately 75% of its Novato Service Area water supply; and

WHEREAS, given the current drought conditions, both Marin Municipal Water District and the North Marin Water District are facing curtailments in their water supply allotments provided by the Sonoma County Water Agency, which is further limiting available water supplies within the County; and

WHEREAS, in Marin County drought impacts are disproportionately impacting farming and dairy communities in West Marin, with little to no water or feed for livestock; and

WHEREAS, the situation for ranchers and dairies in Marin County is grim and deteriorating, with several dairies importing water by truck for many months to keep their animals alive, and with far less grass on the ground, ranchers are required to import feed from other states at extremely high cost; and

WHEREAS, due to the current drought conditions, the Marin Municipal Water District, the North Marin Water District, and several local municipal and private water systems that depend on rainfall for their yearly supply, must seek out additional and more costly sources of water, including increased investment in water conservation measures, to ensure sufficient future water supply for essential uses; and

WHEREAS, the adverse environmental, economic, health, welfare and social impacts of the drought pose an imminent threat of disaster and threaten to cause widespread potential harm to people, businesses, agriculture, property, communities, the environment, wildlife and recreation in the County of Marin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin declares as follows:

1. Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within Marin County due to drought conditions; and
2. All water suppliers in the County are facing water supply shortages, with the two largest water suppliers within the County already declaring water shortage emergencies within their respective service areas, and are seeking out additional sources of water supply and conservation measures necessitating significant additional resources, which may be beyond what is currently available; and
3. As a consequence of said conditions, and pursuant to Government Code section 8630, a local emergency now exists throughout Marin County as a result of the drought conditions; and
4. During this local emergency the powers, functions and duties of the Marin County Administrator and the emergency organization of Marin County shall be those prescribed by State law, and the ordinances, resolutions and approved emergency services plans of the County of Marin; and
5. This resolution shall be submitted to the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting a Director's Concurrence and to the Governor requesting a State declaration of emergency that extends the Governor's April 21st, 2021 State of Emergency Proclamation for Sonoma and Mendocino Counties to include Marin County due to the given impacts as well as making California Disaster Assistance and all applicable state funding and resources, including waiver of regulations which may hinder response and recovery efforts, available to the County, water suppliers, farmers, impacted businesses and the citizens of Marin County; and
6. Furthermore, the County of Marin requests that the Governor request a Presidential Declaration of Emergency and/or Major Disaster.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this 18th day of May 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Damon Connolly, Katie Rice, Stephanie Moulton-Peters,
Judy Arnold, Dennis Rodoni

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE



PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:



CLERK