



County Administration Office

“We Support the Board of Supervisors in achieving their goals through service & collaboration with the County Departments and the Community”

Tracie M. Riggs
County Administrative Officer

September 9, 2021

Assistant County
Administrator
Eric Erhardt

Capital Projects
Director
Maureen Frank

Senior Administrative
Analysts
Liz Peterson
Jason Terry

Office of Emergency
Services Coordinator
Dore Bietz

Purchasing &
Contract Analyst
Simi Bhango

Executive Assistant/
Deputy Clerk of the
Board
Christina Cunha

Board Clerk
Heather Ryan

Executive Clerk
Traci Williams

TO: Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dore Bietz - OES Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Presentation on Drought Conditions and recommendations along with consideration of approving Resolution 89-21 Continuing the Proclamation of a Local State of Emergency Due to Drought.**

Background

On Monday May 10, 2021, the Governor of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency that included Tuolumne County, stating extreme drought conditions through much of the State, presenting urgent challenges, including risk of water shortages in communities, greatly increased wildfire activity, diminished water for agricultural production, degraded habitat for many fish and wildlife species, and additional water scarcity if drought conditions continue into next year. Since then, the Governor has amended his May 10th proclamation, expanding to include nine counties, bringing the total to 50 counties now under a drought state of emergency.

On May 18, 2021, your board Proclaimed a Local State of Emergency due to drought consistent with the State of California's Proclamation. Pursuant to Govt. Code section 8630(c), the governing body shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 60 days until the governing body terminates the local emergency. Your board then also approved continuing that Local Emergency due to drought on July 20, 2021 as drought conditions continued to exist.

Current Situation

Staff have met with other county departments and local partners to create a strategy and recommendations such as outreach and educational partnerships. The Tuolumne County Draft Task Force has met several times and will meet regularly on the third Friday of the month. OES staff have also been keeping track of those needing assistance. We have added a Drought section of our OES website with an intake form and link to resources. GIS staff have created the attached map that shows dry and failing wells currently compared to previous well failures from 2014-2017. We have acquired, through private donation, a cache of bottled water that can be provided to those who might have an emergency need. OES staff maintain intake of those requesting assistance and work with other partners such as TUD and ATCAA who have been providing some assistance to individuals. We are currently working on a system for disseminating the water we do have to those in need as

they come in. Please visit the Drought section of our OES website at www.tuolumne.ca.us/OES .

Through coordination with our Community Development Director, Quincy Yaley, OES staff are working on how we can better track and or verify well failure in the future. Neither department have staff that can be dedicated to this program unless future funding is allocated or received.

With respect to funding, we are currently developing a grant application for the Department of Water Resources Small Community Drought Relief Program. Two hundred million dollars of California State General Fund monies have been appropriated for the Small Community Drought Relief Program in response to the 2021 drought. The Program is authorized to fund “interim or immediate relief” as defined in Water Code section 13198 (c.) “Interim or immediate relief” means any of the following:

- A.) Hauled water
- B.) Temporary community water tanks
- C.) Bottled water
- D.) Water vending machines
- E.) Emergency water interties
- F.) New Wells or rehabilitation of existing wells
- G.) Construction or installation of permanent connections to adjacent water systems, recycled water projects that provide immediate relief to potable water supplies, and other projects that support immediate drought response.

Staff recommend continuation of the following drought response:

- Continue to process intake of those who are seeking assistance.
- Continue to direct those in need to available resources.
- Continue to track failing and/or dry wells within Tuolumne County.
- Continue to work on applying for funding for possible assistance to aid in drought response.
- As impact changes, bring recommendations forward to the board including:
 - Dedication of staff and funding for if needed.
 - Set aside of funding for assistance to individuals impacted.

Due to continued drought conditions, staff also recommend continuing the Proclamation of a Local State of Emergency.

Recommendation:

Adopt staff recommendations for providing resources and adopt Resolution 89-21 Continuing the Proclamation of a Local State of Emergency in Tuolumne County due to drought conditions.

