

## PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS** climate change is intensifying the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and California is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought in all parts of the State and extreme or exceptional drought in most of the State; and

**WHEREAS** in response to climate change and worsening drought conditions, I issued proclamations on April 12 and May 10, 2021, proclaiming drought emergencies in the counties of Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba, which have faced the most dire and severe drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS** since my May 10, 2021 Proclamation, California's water supplies continue to be severely depleted, and high temperatures are now increasing water loss from reservoirs and streams (especially north of the Tehachapi Mountains), and thus demands by communities and agriculture have increased, supplies of cold water needed for salmon and other anadromous fish that are relied upon by tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries have been reduced, and risk has increased of drought impacts continuing in 2022 because of continued water loss from climate change-driven warming temperatures and less water available in reservoirs and streams from two years of below average precipitation; and

**WHEREAS** the counties of Inyo, Marin, Mono, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz are now experiencing emergency drought conditions as well; and

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to expeditiously mitigate the effects of the drought conditions to ensure the protection of health, safety, and the environment; and

**WHEREAS** under Government Code Section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the drought, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

**WHEREAS** under Government Code Section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS** to protect public health and safety, it is critical the State take certain immediate actions without undue delay to prepare for and mitigate the effects of the drought conditions, and under Government Code Section 8571, I

find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the drought conditions.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist due to drought in the additional nine counties of Inyo, Marin, Mono, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz, such that a drought state of emergency is now in effect in 50 counties (collectively, "Proclaimed Drought Counties").

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

- 1) All agencies of the state government are to utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, to protect their safety, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
- 2) The orders and provisions contained in my April 21, 2021 and May 10, 2021 Proclamations remain in full force and effect, except as modified herein. State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from those Proclamations and accelerate implementation where feasible.
- 3) Consistent with the policies stated in Water Code Section 1011.5(a), local agencies are encouraged to take actions to coordinate use of their available supplies and to substitute an alternate supply of groundwater from existing groundwater wells for the unused portion of surface water that the local agency is otherwise entitled to use. For actions taken pursuant to this paragraph in the Proclaimed Drought Counties, the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 85225) of Part 3 of Division 35 of the Water Code and regulations adopted pursuant thereto are suspended for any (a) actions taken by state agencies pursuant to this paragraph, (b) actions taken by a local agency where the state agency with primary responsibility for implementing the directive concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits or approvals necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b). The entities implementing this paragraph shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals that rely on the suspension of the foregoing Water Code provisions.
- 4) To ensure adequate, minimal water supplies in the Proclaimed Drought Counties for purposes of health, safety, and the environment, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) shall consider modifying requirements for reservoir releases or diversion limitations to conserve water upstream later in the year in order to protect cold water pools for salmon and steelhead, enhance instream conditions for fish and wildlife, improve water quality, protect carry over storage, or ensure minimum health and safety water supplies. The Water Board shall require monitoring and evaluation of any such changes to inform future actions. Nothing in this paragraph limits the effect of operative paragraph 4 of my May 10, 2021 Proclamation.

- 5) To support voluntary approaches where hydrology and other conditions allow, the Water Board shall expeditiously consider water transfers requests with respect to the Proclaimed Drought Counties. For purposes of carrying out this paragraph, the following requirements of the Water Code are suspended:
  - a. Section 1726(d) requirements for written notice and newspaper publication, provided that the Water Board shall post notice on its website and provide notice through electronic subscription services where interested persons can request information about temporary changes; and
  - b. Section 1726(f) requirement of a 30-day comment period, provided that the Water Board shall afford a 15-day comment period.
- 6) Operative paragraph 8 of my April 21, 2021 Proclamation and operative paragraph 2 of my May 10, 2021 Proclamation are withdrawn and superseded by the following which shall apply in the Proclaimed Drought Counties.

As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of the drought. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of the drought. Approval of the Department of Finance is required prior to the execution of any contract entered into pursuant to this provision.

- 7) Operative paragraph 7 of my May 10, 2021 Proclamation is withdrawn and superseded by the following which shall apply in the Proclaimed Drought Counties:

To prioritize drought response and preparedness resources, the Department of Water Resources, the Water Board, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Finance, shall:

- a. Accelerate funding for water supply enhancement, water conservation, or species conservation projects.
- b. Identify unspent funds that can be repurposed to enable projects to address drought impacts to people, ecosystems, and economic activities.
- c. Recommend additional financial support for groundwater substitution pumping to support Pacific flyway habitat needs in the lower Sacramento River and Feather River portions of the Central Valley in the Fall of 2021.

- 8) To ensure protection of water in the Proclaimed Drought Counties needed for health, safety, and the environment, the Water Board shall consider emergency regulations to curtail water diversions when water is not available at water right holders' priority of right or to protect releases of stored water.
- 9) To ensure critical instream flows for species protection, the Water Board and Department of Fish and Wildlife shall evaluate the minimum instream flows and other actions needed to protect salmon, steelhead, and other native fishes in critical streams systems in the State and work with water users and other parties on voluntary measures to implement those actions. To the extent voluntary actions are not sufficient, the Water Board, in coordination with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall consider emergency regulations to establish minimum drought instream flows in the Proclaimed Drought Counties.
- 10) To proactively prevent situations where a community runs out of drinking water, the Water Board, the Department of Water Resources, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Office of Planning and Research shall assist local agencies in the Proclaimed Drought Counties with identifying acute drinking water shortages in domestic water supplies, and shall work with local agencies in implementing solutions to those water shortages.
- 11) The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of Water Resources and the Water Board, shall identify and coordinate actions to mitigate drought-related fisheries impacts in critical stream systems and identify possible mechanisms for accomplishing those actions.
- 12) For purposes of carrying out or approving any actions contemplated by the directives in operative paragraphs 4 through 9, in the Proclaimed Drought Counties, the environmental review by state agencies required by the California Environmental Quality Act in Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought.

For purposes of carrying out the directives in operative paragraph 3 and 10, in the Proclaimed Drought Counties, for any (a) actions taken by the listed state agencies pursuant to that directive, (b) actions taken by a local agency where the Office of Planning and Research concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b), Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought. The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of July 2021.

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GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

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SHIRLEY WEBER  
Secretary of State