



TELECOPIER TRANSMITTAL SHEET

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
INLAND REGION - FRESNO

PRIORITY \_\_\_\_\_ ROUTINE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/TIME 1320 4/14/09

SEND TO: WARNING CTR

ATTENTION: PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
FRESNO CO.

NO. OF PAGES: 5  
(Not including cover page)  
FROM: INLAND REGION

NAME: KEVIN NAGATA  
OFFICE PHONE NUMBER (559)445-5672 6142  
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COMMENTS: 2009 DROUGHT RELATED  
UNEMPLOYMENT FOOD CRISIS



PLEASE PASS  
FORWARD

KEVIN

6

1 PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY  
 2 AND REQUEST FOR THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY  
 3 AND REQUEST FOR A PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION  
 4 AND REQUEST FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE  
 5 BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 6 COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

7  
 8 IN THE MATTER OF THE)  
 9 2009 DROUGHT-RELATED RESOLUTION 09-134  
 10 UNEMPLOYMENT FOOD CRISIS)

11  
 12 WHEREAS, the agricultural communities in Fresno County produce more agricultural commodities  
 13 than any other county in the nation. Fresno County is the nation's breadbasket and thousands of  
 14 Fresno County residents work tirelessly to feed the nation and world. Ironically, the people who  
 15 have historically fed the world currently find themselves in a situation where they can't feed  
 16 themselves; and

17  
 18 WHEREAS, on June 6, 2008, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local  
 19 emergency due to drought conditions and water delivery restrictions in Fresno County which  
 20 commenced on May 29, 2008. This "2008 Drought Conditions" local emergency has been  
 21 continued by the Board of Supervisors since that time; and

22  
 23 WHEREAS, statewide rainfall was well below normal in 2007, 2008 and the beginning of 2009.  
 24 From July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, the total water year precipitation was 8.4 inches, 2.83 inches  
 25 below the normal value of 11.23 inches for a normal water year for Fresno County. From July 1,  
 26 2008 through April 1, 2009, rainfall has been at 6.39 inches, which is 3.51 inches below normal;  
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WHEREAS, surface water allocations have been reduced to zero percent to Westlands Water District, the main water provider for western Fresno County. These water reductions have caused Fresno County farmers to fallow thousands of acres of crop land. Westlands Water District reports 250,000 acres will not be farmed in 2009 due to a lack of water; and

WHEREAS, the drought has created an economic crisis in Fresno County's agricultural communities. Thousands of people who once relied on employment in the agricultural sector are now unemployed and struggling to meet their most basic needs, such as providing food for their family. Businesses located in these communities are closing their doors because of a severely diminished customer base; and

WHEREAS, in these agricultural communities the drought has caused a dramatic increase to area unemployment. The February 2009 unemployment rates rose substantially over 2008 averages in many communities. For instance, the City of Mendota rose from 29.1% to 40.5%; the City of Huron from 26.4% to 37.2%; the City of San Joaquin from 25.8 % to 36.5%; the City of Firebaugh 18.7% to 27.5%; and the City of Kerman from 13.5% to 20.6%; The high levels of unemployment have caused significant hardship on families' ability to purchase adequate food and other necessities; and

WHEREAS, the demand on the local Community Food Bank continues to increase, wherein, they have provided food to residents on multiple occasions, only to run short each time. Thousands of people have been turned away during giveaways as supplies are not ample enough to meet the local need. During the Community Food Bank's most recent neighborhood market distribution in the City of Mendota on February 8, 2009, 3,248 people were served. Eight-two percent of those households represented indicated they were affected by the drought. The Community Food Bank's

1 neighborhood market distribution in the City of Fowler on March 21, 2009, served 2,269 people.  
 2 Eighty-eight percent of households represented indicated they were affected by the drought; and

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 4 WHEREAS, food banks are not designed to manage or distribute large volumes of food during  
 5 emergency situations; and

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 7 WHEREAS, farmers and farm workers are not the only residents affected by drought related  
 8 unemployment. Packing house workers, truck drivers, business owners, retail workers and many  
 9 more are also impacted as a result of the drought. The livelihood of Fresno County depends on the  
 10 success of agriculture; and

11  
 12 WHEREAS, local resources are inadequate to cope with the effects of said emergency and the  
 13 combined forces of other political subdivisions of the State are required to assist the County to  
 14 combat the effects of said emergency.

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 16 NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors  
 17 of the County of Fresno, State of California, in accordance with state law, that a local emergency  
 18 does exist throughout said County.

19  
 20 IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the  
 21 Governor of California confirming the request by the Board of Supervisors that the Governor  
 22 proclaim the County of Fresno to be in a state of emergency due to drought-related unemployment;  
 23 and that the Governor request a Presidential Declaration; and further that the Governor request  
 24 any and all State and Federal food assistance and other resources to provide relief to those  
 25 impacted by drought-related unemployment; and

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1 IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency  
2 the powers, functions, and duties for the emergency organization of this County shall be those  
3 prescribed by state law, ordinances and resolutions of this County, and by the County of Fresno  
4 Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors on  
5 May 19, 1998; and

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7 IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that said local emergency shall be deemed to  
8 continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of  
9 Fresno, State of California; and

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11 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the state Acting  
12 Secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency; and

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14 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that John Navarrette, County Administrative Officer, as the  
15 Emergency Services Director is designated as the local Hazard Mitigation Coordinator of the  
16 County of Fresno for the purpose of assessing loss within said County and consulting with federal  
17 or state survey teams about hazard mitigation actions; and

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19 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that John Navarrette, County Administrative Officer, as the  
20 Emergency Services Director and Vicki Crow, Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector, are  
21 hereby designated as the authorized representatives for disaster assistance of the County of  
22 Fresno for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements  
23 necessary to obtain available state and federal assistance.

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THE FOREGOING was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009, to-wit:

AYES: Supervisors Larson, Perea, Case, Poochigian, Anderson  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

Susan B. Anderson  
CHAIRMAN, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
BERNICE E. SEIDEL  
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

By [Signature]  
Deputy

AGENDA #: 6  
RESOLUTION NO. 09-134