DATE/TIME: 13:20  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 NAGATTA
OFFICE PHONE NUMBER (559)445-5672  0142
TELECOPIER NUMBER (559)443-5987

COMMENTS: 2009 DROUGHT RELATED
UNEMPLOYMENT FOOD CRISIS

Please pass forward.
Kevin
PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
AND REQUEST FOR THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY
AND REQUEST FOR A PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION
AND REQUEST FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
2009 DUGHT-RELATED) RESOLUTION 09-134
UNEMPLOYMENT, FOOD CRISIS)

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

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

WHEREAS, statewide rainfall was well below normal in 2007, 2008 and the beginning of 2009.
From July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, the total water year precipitation was 8.4 inches, 2.83 inches
below the normal value of 11.23 inches for a normal water year for Fresno County. From July 1,
2008 through April 1, 2009, rainfall has been at 6.39 inches, which is 3.51 inches below normal; and
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 in 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
neighborhood market distribution in the City of Fowler on March 21, 2009, served 2,269 people.

Eighty-eight percent of households represented indicated they were affected by the drought; and

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

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

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

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

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of California confirming the request by the Board of Supervisors that the Governor proclaim the County of Fresno to be in a state of emergency due to drought-related unemployment; and that the Governor request a Presidential Declaration; and further that the Governor request any and all State and Federal food assistance and other resources to provide relief to those impacted by drought-related unemployment; and
IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties for the emergency organization of this County shall be those prescribed by state law, ordinances and resolutions of this County, and by the County of Fresno Operational Area Master Emergency Services Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 19, 1998; and

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

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

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

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that John Navarrette, County Administrative Officer, as the Emergency Services Director and Vicki Crow, Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector, are hereby designated as the authorized representatives for disaster assistance of the County of Fresno for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available state and federal assistance.
THE FOREGOING was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 14th day of April, 2009, to-wit:

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

CHAIRMAN, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

BERNICE E. SEIDEL
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

By

Deputy

AGENDA #: 6
RESOLUTION NO. 09-134