

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE SCOTT VALLEY GROUND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S REQUEST FOR:

A PROCLAMATION OF A DROUGHT EMERGENCY

WHEREAS Siskiyou County is experiencing record dry conditions, with 2014 projected to become the driest year on record; and

WHEREAS Siskiyou County's water supplies are dipping to levels that are causing serious and deepening concern to the economic mainstay of our County, indicated by: snowpack in California's mountains is approximately 20 percent of the normal average for this date; and groundwater levels throughout Siskiyou County have dropped significantly, and current weather forecasts give no indication of sufficient inclement weather to adequately recharge said groundwater; and

WHEREAS dry conditions and lack of precipitation present urgent problems: drinking water supplies in the cities and towns of Siskiyou County as well as unincorporated areas; fewer crops can be cultivated and farmers' long-term investments are put at risk; low-income communities heavily dependent on agricultural employment will suffer heightened unemployment and economic hardship; animals and plants that rely on Siskiyou County's rivers, including many species in danger of extinction, will be threatened; and the risk of wildfires across the state is greatly increased; and

WHEREAS extremely dry conditions have persisted since 2012 and may continue beyond this year and more regularly into the future, based on scientific projections regarding the impact of climate change on California's snowpack; and

WHEREAS information based upon historic records regarding depleted water sources is already coming in that demonstrates the potential for severe public health and safety emergencies, and

WHEREAS the magnitude of the severe drought conditions presents threats that may 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 combat; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Fort Jones supports the Scott Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee in its request that the Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County be proactive for its citizens by declaring a "Drought Emergency" in Siskiyou County; and through its "Drought Taskforce" immediately begin taking steps to alleviate the impending impact drought conditions will have upon its citizens.

Ayes: 5 (Unanimous)
Noes: 0

Signed: (Tom McCulley, Mayor)
Date: February 3, 2014