



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-138

MEETING: April 5, 2016
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mary Hodson, CAO
RE: Continue the Tree Mortality Local Emergency

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Resolution Continuing the Local Emergency Due to Extremely High Levels of Tree Mortality in Mariposa County.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The incidence of tree mortality in Mariposa County has been increasing at alarming rates. Estimates based on U.S. Forest Service aerial mapping and CalFire data indicate that approximately 54% of trees in the County are currently dead and it is expected that the proportion of dead and dying trees will increase to approximately 72% next year. Further estimates are that currently 200,000 acres of land are affected and that 465,000 acres will be affected in Mariposa County. The latter number constitutes about 50% of the County's land area. Most of the high levels of tree mortality are directly attributable to insect infestations. It is also clear that factors such as poor precipitation levels and warmer winters over the last four years have negatively impacted tree viability. However, this tree mortality disaster will continue regardless of future precipitation levels. Even if the County enjoys a wet winter, many of the standing dead trees will fall, thereby creating further threats to public safety. The County's resources are insufficient to address a disaster of this magnitude.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not continue the local emergency

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended

Mary Hodson
Mary Hodson, CAO 3/29/2016

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier