

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA APPROVING THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA'S SUPPORT OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY'S GOVERNOR'S DROUGHT TASK FORCE LETTER AND PROJECT LIST DEVELOPED BY LOCAL WATER AGENCIES, AND INCLUDE IN DISTRIBUTION THE STATE SENATE, STATE ASSEMBLY, AND CAL OES OFFICE

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2014, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared 27 counties in California, including Santa Barbara County, to be designated as primary natural disaster areas due to drought conditions. Subsequently, on January 17, 2014, the Governor declared a statewide State of Emergency for Drought in the State of California. In turn, on the same date, the Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services signed a Proclamation for a Local Emergency for Drought. This Proclamation was subsequently ratified by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on January 21, 2014;

WHEREAS, supplies from Lake Cachuma, a major water supply for many communities, have been largely unavailable during the drought, with no project water being allocated for the last two years;

WHEREAS, affected water providers serving most communities in the County have been forced to rely on local groundwater and State Water Project deliveries, including some into a nearly empty Lake Cachuma;

WHEREAS, the level of Lake Cachuma remains below the level needed for water to flow naturally into Tecolote Tunnel and the South Coast distribution system without the aid of a temporary emergency pumping system since August 24, 2015;

WHEREAS, although most of California recently emerged from the drought emergency, Santa Barbara County continues in extreme drought and the Lake Cachuma reservoir, which provides in a normal year about 25,000 AF of the County's water supply, is critically below capacity;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the continued severe drought facing Santa Barbara County, the Governor's Drought Task Force directed the County, local agencies, and Cal OES to work together to address the infrastructure needs and contingency planning necessary to maintain public health and safety during the immediate drought, and identify projects that can provide long term mitigation against future droughts;

WHEREAS, a proposal with a list of projects and concerns detailing these immediate and long term drought needs has been developed; and
WHEREAS, Cal OES, Santa Barbara County, and local water agencies will work together to develop a contingency plan and conduct Table Top exercises to prevent or significantly mitigate the likelihood of water shortages and outages from occurring over the next 12-18 months.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Santa Barbara, as follows:

That the undersigned request the county to provide the Governor's Drought Task Force the proposal with a list developed through this process, and include in distribution the State Senate, State Assembly, and Cal OES office.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: