

KITTITAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA ITEM STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 27, 2015
AGENDA DATE REQUESTED: May 5, 2015
ACTION: To Sign Resolution For Declaration of Drought Emergency
☒ Routine ☐ Public Hearing

BACKGROUND: A Drought Emergency was declared by Governor Inslee on March 13, 2015. Kittitas County and the Yakima River Basin in the drought declaration.

The qualifying criteria under state law for being included in the declaration was because Kittitas County water supply in the basins is at 75 percent of normal levels or below and hardships for people, farms and fish are expected because of water shortages resulting from significantly below normal run-off from snowmelt.

Kittitas County has a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan that identifies drought as a natural disaster of significant concern in Kittitas County. We recognize the need for additional analysis of the drought and the preparation of a Drought Response Plan, consistent with the Hazard Mitigation Plan in partnership with Kittitas County Conservation District and other interested parties.

As a result of the state's drought declaration, funding opportunities may be made available to assist with drought relief. A drought declaration by the county would further support the state's drought declaration and potentially aid in funding opportunities.

INTERACTION: Kittitas County Sheriff
Kittitas County Conservation District

REQUEST: The Department of Public Works requests that the Board sign the Resolution for Declaration of Drought Emergency

HANDLING: Copy to Public Works
Copy to Kittitas County Sheriff

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution for Declaration of Drought Emergency

LEAD STAFF: Kathy Jurgens, Finance System Manager

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF KITTITAS
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

RESOLUTION

NO.: _____

DECLARATION OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY

WHEREAS: A Drought Emergency was declared including Kittitas County and the Yakima River Basin by Governor Inslee on March 13, 2015. Kittitas County is experiencing record-low snow pack and water supply conditions and water users within Kittitas County will likely incur undue hardship as a result of this shortage; and

WHEREAS: The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners determined that the adverse environmental, economic, and social impacts of the drought pose an imminent threat of disaster and will likely cause harm for people, businesses, property, communities, wildlife and recreation in Kittitas County; and

WHEREAS: Kittitas County has a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan that identifies drought as a natural disaster of significant concern in Kittitas County; and

WHEREAS: The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners have determined that additional damage or economic injury will likely take place unless further efforts to qualify for drought assistance are taken.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, in the best interest of the public, does hereby declare a Drought Emergency in Kittitas County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following additional actions are authorized:

1. Additional analysis of the drought and preparation of a Drought Response Plan, consistent with the Kittitas County Hazard Mitigation Plan in partnership with the Kittitas County Conservation District and others;
2. Communication of the emergency state to appropriate State and Federal Agencies;
3. This Declaration of Drought Emergency shall be reevaluated no later than December 31, 2015 to be determined if continuation of the Declaration is necessary;

DATED this 5th day of May, 2015 at Ellensburg, Washington.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Gary Berndt, Chairman

Obie O'Brien, Vice-Chairman

Paul Jewell, Commissioner

**ATTEST:
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

Julie A. Kjorsvik