



IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASCO

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN WASCO COUNTY AS A RESULT OF ADVERSE CLIMATE CONDITIONS AND DECLARING A BAN ON THE USE OF FIREWORKS

RESOLUTION 24-012

NOW ON THIS DAY, the above-entitled matter having come on regularly for consideration, said day being one duly set in term for the transaction of public business and a majority of the Board of Commissioners being present; and

WHEREAS, ORS 401.025(1)(a) defines “emergency” as a natural event or circumstance causing or threatening widespread loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering, or financial loss, including but not limited to “fire” and “severe weather”;

WHEREAS, ORS 401.309 authorizes the County governing body to declare a state of emergency within the County and to establish procedures to prepare for and carry out activities which are necessary to prevent, minimize, respond to, or recover from an emergency;

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seasonal Temperature Outlook for June through August of 2024 is leaning to above normal temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seasonal Precipitation Outlook for June through August of 2024 is leaning to below normal precipitation; and

WHEREAS, As of June 10, 2024, all outdoor burning has been prohibited with a total burn ban for Wasco County in effect;

WHEREAS, according to the National Fire Protection Association fireworks cause over 19,000 fires in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, this region, like many other regions in the western United States, is experiencing extremely low water levels and cannot afford to use its limited water supply for fighting fires caused by fireworks.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

1. A local State of Emergency is declared to exist throughout Wasco County as a result of adverse climate conditions.
2. This Declaration of a State of Emergency is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the Wasco County Burn Ban is lifted in coordination with local Fire Officials. It may be amended, modified, supplemented, and/or extended in additional increments by the Board of Commissioners so long as conditions continue to pose an ongoing, immediate, and substantial threat to life, safety, health, or property in Wasco County.
3. The Board of Commissioners directs the Wasco County Emergency Manager to address mitigating risks associated with adverse climate conditions and extreme heat including but not limited to coordinating

services with other public bodies and requesting assistance from the State of Oregon to the extent available.

4. To preserve limited public safety and water resources, and to prioritize emergency preparedness and response to maximize public safety, including those related to extreme weather conditions, use of all fireworks as defined by ORS 480.111 within the unincorporated areas of Wasco County during this emergency is strictly prohibited. Violations are subject to Class C misdemeanors and all civil and/or criminal penalties, sanctions, and liability allowed by law. For purposes of this section, "use" includes lighting, exploding, or igniting in any way. Fireworks displays approved by the Oregon State Fire Marshall are exempt from this restriction. Use of fireworks that are illegal under state law continues to be prohibited at all times.
5. The County may take any other actions within its authority for the protection of safety, health, life, or property during this emergency.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:




Kristen Campbell, County Counsel

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



Steven D. Kramer, Commission Chair



Scott C. Hege, Vice-Chair



Philip L. Brady, County Commissioner