



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 22, 2023

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2023-012, declaring a countywide State of Emergency and requesting a State Declaration of Drought Emergency within all of Deschutes County

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of Resolution No. 2023-012, declaring a countywide State of Emergency and requesting a State Declaration of Drought Emergency within all of Deschutes County.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Continuing weather conditions within Deschutes County are not likely to resolve drought conditions and may cause widespread and severe damage to livestock, wildlife, natural resources, recreation, tourism and related economies, potentially endangering crops and livestock as well as the health and safety of residents and visitors. Drought conditions can also imperil the quality of the environment.

The overall precipitation for the water year is currently at 80% which is the 6th straight year of below average precipitation. The latest drought monitor shows most of Deschutes County is currently under drought conditions with a significant portion under severe or extreme drought. Specifically, the Wickiup Reservoir was at 106,497 acre feet on February 13th which is just over half its capacity and is expected to peak around April 1st at near record low levels, and Crescent Lake is at 9% capacity. It is not expected that adequate precipitation will fall in the coming months to prevent the persistence of drought conditions.

Additionally, the Deschutes River is experiencing extremely low natural flow levels such that all irrigation districts dependent upon water flows from the Deschutes River will be severely impacted by being significantly reduced or severely curtailed due to diminished supplies.

Resolution 2023-012, if adopted, would immediately declare a State of Emergency to exist, and would request that the Governor declare a Drought Emergency for all of Deschutes County continuing to December 31, 2023 and direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources and other Oregon executive branch agencies to make available for all purveyors

of water within Deschutes County Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

To be determined according to the level of emergency response needed.

ATTENDANCE:

Sergeant Nathan Garibay, DCSO