

RESOLUTION NO. ____-2021

**RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL
SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY DROUGHT AD
HOC COMMITTEE AND THE COUNTYWIDE DROUGHT TASK FORCE TO
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY TO THE MENDOCINO COAST**

WHEREAS, Northern California, Mendocino County and the City of Fort Bragg have experienced significantly less rainfall in the last twenty-four (24) months than would be considered normal; and

WHEREAS, the water flow in the Noyo River has declined to water levels below the levels in the summer of 1977, which is the worst drought on record for the City of Fort Bragg; and

WHEREAS, historically, in the months of August, September and October, the Noyo River experiences high tides, where the gravitational pull between the sun and the moon increase tide levels to a foot or two higher than normal tide levels. High tides during periods of low flow levels on the Noyo River increase salinity content and shorten pump run times, impairing the City's ability to replenish water supply from the Noyo River; and

WHEREAS, the weather forecasts continue to show no significant rainfall in the area in the coming weeks and months; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2021, the USDA declared that 50 counties in California, including Mendocino County, were designated as primary natural disaster areas due to recent drought; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2021, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency in Mendocino County due to drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021 the City Council implemented Stage 1 voluntary water conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2021 the City Council confirmed the Stage 2 Water Warning and implemented Stage 2 Water Conservation Restrictions; and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2021, in response to historic low flows and significant drops in the Noyo River, it was necessary for the City to cease water sales to water haulers providing water to businesses and residents outside City limits in the greater Mendocino Coastal area; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2021 the City Council held a Public Hearing in compliance with Chapter 14.06 (WATER CONSERVATION STAGES) and declared a Stage 3 Water Emergency implementing Stage 3 Conservation Restrictions; and

WHEREAS, City staff continue to work with the Mendocino County Drought Ad Hoc Committee on solutions to the water needs of the Mendocino Coast, including the City of Fort Bragg; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Drought Ad Hoc Committee and staff have developed a plan whereby water from the inland cities could be hauled by truck to the Coast and placed into the City of Fort Bragg's water system to provide additional supply, that can be

sold to the water haulers providing water to businesses and residents outside City limits in the greater Mendocino Coastal area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Bragg would restore the out of city sales under the terms and conditions of sales prior to July 19, 2021 as soon as the additional water was available; and

WHEREAS, any additional costs to haul water from inland cities will be borne by Mendocino County, the water haulers, and/or the water hauler’s customers and the City’s water ratepayers will not be responsible for any costs above those incurred prior to July 19, 2021 to produce and sell water to the water haulers; and

WHEREAS, based on all the evidence presented, the City Council finds as follows:

1. That the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are made a part of this Resolution.
2. That the City Council supports countywide solutions to the current water shortage emergency on the Mendocino Coast and is committed to assisting the greater coastal community, including providing the physical plant for distributing water hauled from inland to customers on the Coast.
3. That the City Council supports the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding or similar agreement with the County of Mendocino and/or other Mendocino cities to facilitate county-wide solutions to the current water shortage throughout Mendocino County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby support and pledge ongoing assistance to the Mendocino County Drought Ad Hoc Committee and the Countywide Drought Task Force to provide additional water supply to the Mendocino coast.

The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____, and passed and adopted at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 23rd day of August, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:
RECUSED:

BERNIE NORVELL
Mayor

ATTEST:

June Lemos, CMC
City Clerk