

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
RESOLUTION # 2018 - 315**

Proclaiming Local Drought Emergency

WHEREAS, conditions of disaster within the Ojai Valley have arisen as a result of drought since 2011, and said conditions constitute a local emergency as defined in Government Code section 8558, subdivision (c) and Water Code section 31026 ; and

WHEREAS, the Ventura River Water District serves water to about 5,700 people in the Ojai Valley and to businesses and industry; and

WHEREAS, the primary source of water supply for the Ventura River Water District is from the Upper Ventura River groundwater basin; and

WHEREAS, the Casitas Municipal Water District serves as the back-up water supply for the Ventura River Water District when available water in the Upper Ventura River Groundwater basin diminishes and on July 1, 2016 Casitas entered into a stage 3 drought when lake levels dropped below 40%; and

WHEREAS, the Ventura River watershed remains in severe drought, experiencing record dry conditions and since 2011 rainfall in the Ventura River watershed has averaged less than half of normal, with the exception of 2016/17 when rain totaled 5-inches above normal – not nearly enough to make up for the preceding 5-years of drought; and

WHEREAS, Lake Casitas is expected to drop below 30% of capacity in October 2018 likely triggering a stage 4 drought declaration by Casitas Municipal Water District at that time; and

WHEREAS, in December 2017, the region experienced the largest wildfire in California history further impacting the watershed by leaving the watershed denuded of vegetation and with fine sediments decreasing infiltration capacity, coating the stream bottoms, and decreasing the ability for recharge, especially after the flash flood of January 9, 2018; and

WHEREAS, with the current reduced rate of recharge and continued decline of the Upper Ventura River groundwater basin, the available water in the basin could be depleted in late 2019 significantly impacting the beneficial water users such as Ventura River Water District requiring increased use of the declining water in Lake Casitas, and;

WHEREAS, the Ojai Valley is currently experiencing the second of two extreme heat waves, and

WHEREAS, the Ventura River Water District Board of Directors (Board) finds that conditions of disaster peril as described above exist within the District's service area and that these conditions warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that a local emergency exists in the County of Ventura in the area served by the Ventura River Water District and shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board.

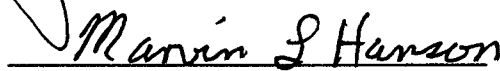
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of California and the California Director of Emergency Services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the General Manager or his designee is hereby designated as the authorized representative of the District for the purpose of receipt, processing and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available state assistance.


ADOPTED this 15th day of August 2018.



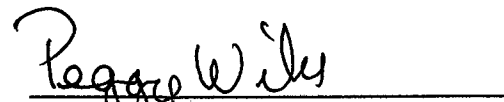
John R. Curtis, President



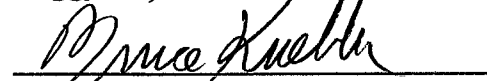
Marvin Hanson, Treasurer



Ed Lee, Director



Peggy Wiles, Vice President



Bruce Kuebler, Director