

RESOLUTION NO. 4437-2021

RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL APPROVING MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AMONG THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO, CITY OF UKIAH, CITY OF FORT BRAGG AND OTHER SIGNATORY CITIES OR SPECIAL DISTRICTS

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 and the other cities in Mendocino County on solutions to the water needs of the Mendocino Coast and greater Mendocino County; and

WHEREAS, mutual aid is defined as emergency assistance given from one public agency to another, under a prearranged agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the potential vulnerabilities in not only the Fort Bragg Water System but in other agencies' water systems throughout Mendocino County; and

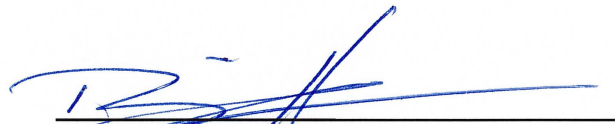
WHEREAS, based on all the evidence presented, the City Council finds as follows:

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 and possibly future water shortage emergencies and is committed to participating in sharing of resources, so long as the City is able to meet the health and safety needs of its residents and businesses.
3. That the Mutual Aid Agreement provides a plan, process and template for the parties to effectively share resources and increases the emergency preparedness of the City of Fort Bragg and each party to the Agreement.
4. That sharing resources amongst the County of Mendocino, City of Ukiah, City of Fort Bragg and other signatories to the Mutual Aid Agreement benefits all of the residents and businesses in our greater community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby approve the Mutual Aid Agreement Providing for Emergency Assistance Among the County of Mendocino, City of Ukiah, City of Fort Bragg and Other Signatory Cities or Special Districts.

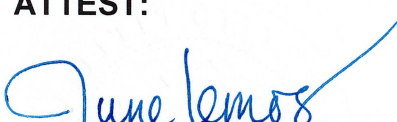
The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Morsell-Haye, and passed and adopted at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 30th day of August, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Albin-Smith, Morsell-Haye, Peters, Rafanan and Mayor Norvell.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
RECUSED: None.



BERNIE NORVELL
Mayor

ATTEST:



June Lemos, CMC
City Clerk