

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENTS TO EXPEDITE PERMIT PROCESSES AND WAIVE PERMIT FEES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT DOMESTIC WELLS AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO MAKE APPROPRIATE YEAR-END ADJUSTMENTS TO SUCH DEPARTMENTS' BUDGETS TO OFFSET REVENUES LOST AS A RESULT OF THE FEES WAIVED

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, in January 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared a Drought State of Emergency for the State of California; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of San Mateo County residents have had their local domestic water source impacted by the drought; and

WHEREAS, as of December 9, 2014, approximately thirty single family dwellings on the San Mateo County Coastsides have experienced a failure of their domestic water source as a direct result of the drought; and

WHEREAS, these residents must pay to have water hauled to their homes for basic daily needs, and due to the high demand for, and scarcity of, certified water haulers, it is becoming increasingly difficult for San Mateo County Coastsides residents to access and afford such water hauling services, and, many of these residents may

therefore require replacement domestic wells if the drought continues; and

WHEREAS, while some Coastside residents are served by water districts, much of the Coastside population is dependent on local wells, streams and creeks for domestic water; and reliance on these sources for domestic water makes this population particularly vulnerable to natural disaster such as droughts; and

WHEREAS, the County Planning and Building Department has determined that if a domestic ground or surface water system serving a dwelling fails due to the drought, the replacement of that system through the drilling of a replacement well constitutes maintenance of an existing utility and therefore qualified for a Coastal Development Exemption (CDX) under the County's Local Coastal Program and therefore does not require a Coastal Development Permit (CDP), provided that the amount of water to be extracted by the replacement well does not exceed the amount extracted by the previous domestic water system; and

WHEREAS, the County requires a filing fee that is presently \$639.00 to properly destroy a failed well; and

WHEREAS, in addition to obtaining a CDX, applicants must obtain three permits from Environmental Health for different stages of drilling a well and evaluation of the well and water to ensure public health requirements are met; and.

WHEREAS, the required Environmental Health permits include a well drilling permit, a certification of quantity and a permit to operate a domestic well (water quality and any associated treatment processes) and the total cost of these permits is currently

\$3,947.00; and

WHEREAS, the County Planning and Building Department's filing fee for a CDX is \$287.00; and

WHEREAS, to address the urgent needs on the San Mateo County Coastside and to ensure that all replacement domestic wells meet health and safety standards and all applicable LCP policies, this Board finds that the County should take steps necessary to expedite the permit processes and waive all permit fees associated with both the proper destruction of failed domestic wells and the drilling of replacement domestic wells if Environmental Health determines that the proper destruction of the failed well should be required in all cases for applicants who provide documentation that they are drilling a replacement domestic well for a residential dwelling that was previously supported by a water system that has failed due to the drought; and

WHEREAS, this Board finds that when the Director of Environmental Health has determined that the drought is no longer impacting local water sources, the above-referenced fee waivers should cease and that, at the time of such determination, the directors of Environmental Health and the Planning and Building Department shall inform this Board of Supervisors in writing of how many permits were issued pursuant to this waiver.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the directors of Environmental Health and the Planning and Building Departments are hereby authorized to expedite the permit processes for residential dwellings that were previously supported by a water system that has failed due to the drought until such time that the Director of Environmental Health determines that the drought is no longer

impacting local water sources; and

BE IT FURTHER DETERMINED AND ORDERED that upon determination by the Director of Environmental Health that a domestic water source has failed due to the drought the above-referenced Planning and Building permit fees and Environmental Health permit fees associated with the construction of replacement domestic wells shall be waived; and

BE IT FURTHER DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the County Manager is hereby directed to make appropriate year-end fund balance adjustments for both the Planning and Building and Environmental Health departments so that such departments will be made whole for lost revenues resulting from the fees waived; and

BE IT FURTHER DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the directors of Planning and Building and Environmental Health shall report to the Board in writing at the conclusion of the program how many permits were issued and the cost incurred by each department.

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