



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 15 - 11

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN LINN COUNTY DUE TO DROUGHT, LOW SNOW PACK LEVELS, AND LOW WATER CONDITIONS

At the request of Linn County (by Resolution & Order No. 2015-308 dated August 19, 2015) and based on the recommendations of the Drought Council and the Water Availability Committee, and pursuant to ORS 401.165 and ORS 536.740, I find the continuing dry conditions, low snowpack, and lack of precipitation have caused a severe, continuing drought to exist in Linn County, which have led to natural and economic disaster conditions in Linn County.

Projected forecasts are not expected to alleviate the severe drought conditions, and the drought is having significant economic impacts on agricultural and natural resources in Linn County.

The dry conditions present hardships for Linn County communities: agricultural investments are at risk; animals and plants that rely on Oregon's surface water supplies are threatened; and the risk of wildfires across the state is greatly increased. Current conditions are being monitored and analyzed by state agencies including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

A timely response to the severe drought conditions is vital to the safety of persons and property and economic security of the citizens and businesses of Linn County; I am therefore declaring that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists in Linn County, and directing the following actions.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

I. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources to mitigate drought conditions and assist in agricultural recovery in Linn County.

II. The Department of Water Resources and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Linn County as they determine is necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.



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III. The Office of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Linn County.

IV. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined necessary to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Linn County.

V. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2015.

Done at Salem, Oregon this 25 day of August, 2015.



Handwritten signature of Kate Brown in blue ink.

KATE BROWN
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Jeanne P. Atkins in blue ink.

Jeanne P. Atkins
SECRETARY OF STATE