AN URGENCY ORDINANCE REQUIRING LAND USE APPLICANTS TO PROVIDE ENHANCED WATER ANALYSIS DURING A DECLARED DROUGHT EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Sheriff, acting as the OES Director of Lake County, declared a local emergency due to drought conditions on May 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Board of Supervisors approved the ratification of the declaration of a local emergency due to drought conditions on May 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wish to ensure continued access to drinking water from private wells or from water purveyors throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wish to ensure that all current agricultural activities and projects find success during this declared drought emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake finds that additional information is critical to ensuring that the Planning Commission approves projects based on evidence of water use and water impacts and the analysis of the impacts to the surrounding areas.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake hereby ordains as follows:

Section One: Due to the exceptional drought that we are experiencing and the declaration of a drought emergency, any land use approvals are required to provide adequate information regarding water usage for the project being considered and its impacts to surrounding areas. All projects that require a CEQA analysis of water use must include these additional items:

A. Hydrology report prepared by a California licensed civil engineer, hydro-geologist, hydrologist, or geologist experienced in water resources
   a. Approximate amount of water available for the project’s identified water source
   b. Approximate recharge rate for the project’s identified water source
   c. Cumulative impact of water use to surrounding areas due to project

B. Drought Management Plan
   a. Provide a plan depicting how the applicants plan to reduce water use during a declared drought emergency, to ensure both success and decreased impacts to the surrounding areas

Section Two: This urgency ordinance, if approved, shall take effect on all future Planning Commission considerations until the declared drought emergency has expired or if the Board of Supervisors revokes the ordinance.

Section Three: It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this urgency Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment.

Section Four: All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict and no further.
Section Five: This ordinance shall go into effect immediately, and before the expiration of fifteen days after its passage, it shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the County of Lake.

Section Six: This Ordinance is adopted as an urgency Ordinance pursuant to the provisions of Government Code sections 25123 and 25131 and shall be effective immediately upon adoption. Based on the declaration of purpose and facts constituting the urgency set forth above in Section One of this Ordinance, the Board of Supervisors finds and determines that the adoption of this Ordinance as an urgency Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety to address critical groundwater conditions in Lake County.

The Foregoing Ordinance was introduced before the Board of Supervisors on the 27th day of July, 2021, and passed by the following vote on the 27th day of July, 2021.

AYES: Supervisors Simon, Crandell, Scott, Pyska, and Sabatier
NOES: None
ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: None

COUNTY OF LAKE

CAROL J. HUCHINGSON
Chair, Board of Supervisors

CAROL J. HUCHINGSON
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

ANITA L. GRANT
County Counsel

ATTEST: Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM: