

Executive Document

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Governor, Administration: Governor's Executive Order: Declaring a State of Emergency and Statewide Agricultural Disaster Due to Severe Drought Conditions That Continue to Worsen Throughout the State of Utah

Issued: April 24, 2002

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Whereas, severe drought conditions exist and continue to worsen in the State of Utah, and present a serious threat to human health and safety, private property, wildlife, agriculture, the environment and the economy;

Whereas, the current drought conditions have caused and will continue to cause adverse effects to agricultural producers, wildlife, the tourism industry and potentially threaten the culinary water needs of residents;

Whereas, severe drought has reduced soil moisture, stream flows, ground water, and water levels and could result in agricultural losses into the tens of millions of dollars;

Whereas, the potential for wildfires throughout Utah is high and the availability of firefighting resources is expected to be limited as drought conditions persist and worsen throughout the entire western part of the United States;

Whereas, the state is suffering from four consecutive years of drought conditions and the situation has the potential to greatly worsen if left unattended;

Whereas, immediate action is required to protect public health and safety, public and private property, wildlife, agriculture and the environment; and

Whereas, these conditions do create a disaster emergency within the intent of the Disaster Response and Recovery Act of 1981;

Now, Therefore, I, Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of the State of Utah by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution and the laws of the State of Utah, do hereby order the following:

1. A "State of Emergency" and "Statewide Agricultural Disaster" exist throughout the State of Utah.
2. It is a disaster requiring aid, assistance and relief available pursuant to the provisions of state statute, and the State Emergency Operations Plan.
3. The State Emergency Operations Plan is activated.

4. Comprehensive Emergency Management shall coordinate drought relief efforts with federal, state and local entities.

In Testimony, Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah this 24th day of April, 2002.

(State Seal)

Michael O. Leavitt, Governor

Attest:

Olene S. Walker, Lt. Governor

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