

**State of Texas**

**County of Robertson**

**DISASTER DECLARATION RELATED TO THREAT OF WILD FIRE DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Robertson County has experienced a sustained and continuing condition of extreme temperatures, lack of significant rainfall, and high drought index numbers; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Drought Mitigation Center, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have formed the United States Drought Monitor (USDM): and

**WHEREAS**, the USDM monitors drought conditions across the United States and has classified 100% of Robertson County in the Extreme Drought Category, and

**WHEREAS**, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), maintained by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M Forest Service, is an index used to determine fire potential, and the current KBDI indicates a KBDI minimum value of 753 for Robertson County as of August 14, 2023, with a maximum KBDI value of 775; and

**WHEREAS**, the KBDI value for Robertson County is now within the highest range of the index, indicating a severe drought and increased wildfire occurrence; and

**WHEREAS**, Robertson County is currently under a burn ban order for the entire county; and

**WHEREAS**, the above conditions pose a substantial, significant, and imminent threat to persons and property in the Cities of Bremond/Calvert/Franklin/Hearne and Robertson County; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions have led to the potential for significant water restrictions within our region and could potentially affect local farms, ranches, industry, businesses and private citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas government code chapter 418 provides the county judge may declare a local disaster within the county “if the threat of disaster is imminent”; and

**WHEREAS**, the magnitude of the potential disaster and the rapidity with which drought conditions could escalate to major proportions constitute and imminent threat of disaster and has been experienced in this county historically; and

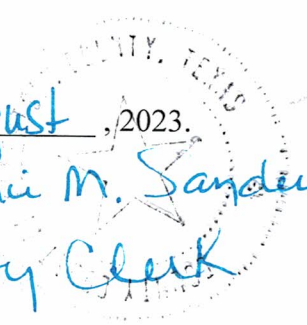
**WHEREAS**, a local disaster declaration expires thirty (30) days after its issuance, unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal.

**BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED** that I, Joe David Scarpinato, County Judge of Robertson County, declare a local state of disaster based on the threat of wildfire due to drought conditions in Robertson County, Texas.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I affix my signature on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

  
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County Judge, Robertson County, Texas

Filed with the clerk of Robertson County, Texas on 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

  
Stephanie M. Sanders  
County Clerk

