



BRAZOS COUNTY
BRYAN, TEXAS

DECLARATION OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, the National Drought Mitigation Center, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic Atmosphere Association have formed the United States Drought Monitor ('USDM'); and

WHEREAS, the USDM monitors drought conditions across the United States and as of August 15, 2023 has classified 100% of Brazos County as in severe drought; and

WHEREAS, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index ('KBDI'), maintained by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M Forest Service, is an index that is used to determine fire potential and the current KBDI indicates an average KBDI value of 780 for Brazos County as of August 22, 2023, with a maximum KBDI value of 790; and

WHEREAS, Brazos County is now within the highest range of the index, indicating a severe drought and increased wildfire occurrence; and

WHEREAS, Brazos County has, and is continuing, to experience wildfires across the County; and

WHEREAS, the above conditions pose a substantial, significant, and imminent threat to persons and property in Brazos County; and

WHEREAS, Brazos County is currently under a burn ban order; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with provisions of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Section 418.108 Texas Government Code); a state of disaster is being declared due to the severe drought conditions that exist in Brazos County and present an imminent and substantial danger to the residents of Brazos County; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures to be taken pursuant to Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to emergency management and public protection, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code; and

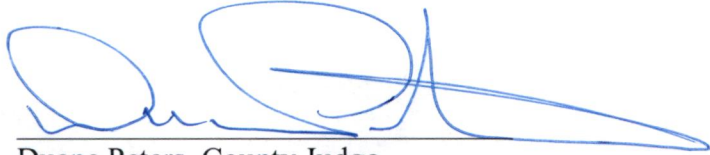
WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to reduce potential for damage to property and request assistance from the governor for state resources; and

WHEREAS, by this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat be suspended for the duration of the incident; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the County's response to this situation.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority granted to me by the Texas Disaster Act (Section 418.108 Texas Government Code) and the Interjurisdictional Emergency Management Plan for Brazos County, Texas A&M University, and the cities of Bryan, College Station, Kurten, and Wixon Valley and as Presiding Officer for Brazos County, I do hereby declare a local state of disaster due to severe drought conditions. This Declaration shall continue for a period of not more than seven days of the date hereof, unless the same is continued by consent of the Commissioners Court of the County of Brazos, Texas. Additionally, this Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED & ORDERED this the **23rd** day of **August 2023**.



Duane Peters, County Judge

ATTEST:



Karen McQueen, County Clerk