FOURTH EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS DECLARED BY RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026 – 5

DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE CONDITIONS (2026)

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted in Chapter 30 of the Code of Ordinances of Levy County, Florida, on Thursday, February 12, 2026, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2026-5 declaring a local state of emergency in Levy County due to prolonged dry conditions, drought indicators, and heightened risk of wildfire in the County (the "Emergency Declaration"); and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has been informed by County Emergency Management Staff that such conditions are expected to continue within the County over the next seven (7) days, promoting rapid fire growth, and continue to have the capacity to pose a significant, imminent, and dangerous threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 30 of the Levy County Code, as well as Resolution No. 2026-5, authorizes the chairman, or vice-chairman in the absence of the chair, or county administrator in the absence of the chairman and vice-chairman, to extend the Emergency Declaration in seven (7) day increments until it is found that the threat or danger no longer exists.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND DECLARED THAT:

1. The local state of emergency as provided in the Emergency Declaration is extended for a period of seven (7) days, commencing at 8 AM (EST) on March 12, 2026

2. In accordance with Section 252.46, Florida Statutes, this proclamation shall be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court as Ex Officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners within three (3) days after its issuance, and shall be posted on the County's designated website: https://levydisaster.com

ISSUED on March 11, 2026.

LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Chair/Vice-Chair/County Manager

This is a form document approved by the Interim County Attorney as to legal form and sufficiency.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026 – 5

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS; IMPOSING A COUNTYWIDE BURN BAN; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS, ENFORCEMENT, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, current conditions and potential fires have the capacity to pose a significant, imminent and dangerous threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Levy County, Florida (the County); and

WHEREAS, such conditions are expected to continue over the next seven (7) days promoting rapid fire growth; and

WHEREAS, prolonged dry conditions, drought indicators, and predicted wind conditions have created a heightened risk of wildfire in the County; and

WHEREAS, wildfires threaten life, property, public infrastructure, and natural resources and may overwhelm local firefighting capacity; and

WHEREAS, section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 30 of the Levy County Code of Ordinances authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to declare a local state of emergency to exercise emergency management powers to reduce vulnerability to hazards and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by law when necessary to take prompt action to save lives and protect property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that immediate action is necessary to reduce the risk of wildfire and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SESSION DULY AND SPECIALLY ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as the findings of the governing body.

Section 2. **Local State of Emergency.** A local state of emergency is hereby declared pursuant to section 252.38(3), Florida Statutes, and Section 30-32 of the Levy County Code of Ordinances.

Section 3. **Countywide Burn Ban.** During the local state of emergency, the following activities are prohibited in all of Levy County, Florida:

(A) All burning of any combustible material in an outdoor area, including but not limited to outdoor burning of yard waste, trash, household paper products, bonfires, campfires, warming fires, outdoor fireplaces, land clearing fires, and cooking fires.

(B) All outdoor activity which creates flames or sparks that could ignite a fire, including but not limited to the lighting of fireworks, sparklers, or other incendiary devices.

Section 4. **Exemptions.** The following activities are exempt from the prohibitions described in section 3 above:

(A) The cooking of food completely contained within an enclosed gas or charcoal grill in accordance with manufacture instructions and warnings, and continuously attended by a responsible adult;

(B) Agricultural, silvicultural, land clearing, or any activity for which a valid state open burn authorization has been issued by the Florida Forest Services with adequate fire suppression equipment and personnel on site;

(C) Properly permitted fireworks displays conducted by the County or a municipality within its jurisdiction, with appropriate fire suppression measures in place;

(D) Emergency flares discharges on navigable waters, lakes, or rivers; and

(E) Firefighter training conducted by the County, a municipality, or the state or federal governments.

Section 5. **Enforcement.** Pursuant to section 252.50, Florida Statutes, and Section 30-37 of the Levy County Code of Ordinances, a violation of these emergency measures constitutes a second-degree misdemeanor under sections 775.082 or 775.083, Florida Statutes. Upon notification of a suspected violation, Levy County Fire Rescue shall respond as soon as practicable and take immediate measures to contain and extinguish the fire. Violators shall reimburse the County and any responding agencies for all response and fire suppression costs.

Section 6. **Severability.** If any provision of this Resolution is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be considered separate and severable and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. **Effective Date.** This Resolutions shall become effective immediately upon its adoption. The local state of emergency declared hereby shall be in effect for seven (7) days and may be extended by proclamation the chairman, or vice-chairman in absence of the chair, or county administrator in absence of the chairman and vice-chairman, for up to seven (7) days for each extension until it is found that the threat or danger no longer exists.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON February 12, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Chair

ATTEST:
Clerk of the Circuit County and Ex Officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

Clerk

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

GrayRobinson, P.A., Interim County Attorney