

DEPARTMENT: Agricultural Commissioner

BY: Cathi Boze

PHONE: 966-2075

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Resolution re-affirming the USDA Primary Disaster Declaration Request for Mariposa County rangeland/livestock operations due to drought conditions that began October 15, 2006 and are continuing by the Agricultural Commissioner. Introduction of Laura Westerfield, USDA Merced-Mariposa Farm Service Agency Office and Dawn Afman, USDA NRCS - Relative to USDA Disaster Program and Resource Development Assistance resources.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

USDA granted a Secretarial disaster designation for Mariposa County as a primary county for October 15, 2006, and continuing. The drought conditions that began in October 2006 and continue to the present time caused and continue to cause a significant loss in range forage production and value in Mariposa County. Rangeland forage production losses of greater than 30% were sustained due to continued lack of adequate rainfall at critical times during the growing season. The significant lack of moisture continues to have additional impacts on the agricultural producers, especially with regard to livestock production and supplemental feed costs. This request is to reaffirm our continued drought situation and enable Mariposa County producers to remain eligible for various USDA compensation programs.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Mariposa County producers may not be eligible for any possible federal aid.

Financial Impact? () Yes (x) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes (x) No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$ _____		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$ _____		Resolution re-affirming drought declaration
Source:		Letter to OES re-affirming drought situation
Internal Transfer		Resolution ratifying USDA Primary Disaster Declaration - 07-118
Unanticipated Revenue _____ 4/5's vote		OES request letter - April 5, 2007
Transfer Between Funds _____ 4/5's vote		USDA Secretarial disaster designation
Contingency _____ 4/5's vote		
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No. 07-578 Ord. No. _____
Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
Absent: _____
MW) Approved
() Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: _____
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: *MB*

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 07-578

**IN THE MATTER OF RENEWING
A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO
SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS /**

WHEREAS, in the Fall and Winter of 2006 and continuing up to the present in 2007, there was extremely low precipitation in the form of rain and snow generally throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the result of the very low precipitation is that there has been, and will continue to be, very little runoff from the Coast Range and from the Sierra Nevada, resulting in an extremely low amount of local water supplies available for ranchers and producers throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, local ranchers and producers have already reported lowered water availability throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the continuing drought conditions have caused increased cost factors for the ranchers and producers due to increased supplemental feeding, decreases in livestock weight gain, livestock losses, lower carrying capacity of rangeland, early sales of livestock at lower prices and weights, and the cost of transporting livestock outside the county to other unaffected grazing areas; and

WHEREAS, this disaster threatens to create conditions of economic hardship for the livestock industry caused by lack of forage and water, and severely impairs or threatens the economic viability of Mariposa County and will continue to do so; and

WHEREAS, local resources are inadequate to cope with the effects of these conditions; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted its Resolution No. 07-118 declaring a local emergency on the basis of such drought condition; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of local emergency in Mariposa County; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2007, USDA Secretary Mike Johanns granted a Secretarial Disaster Designation to Mariposa County as a primary county due to agricultural losses caused by drought.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

That the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of California, re-affirms the USDA Primary Disaster Declaration Designation for Mariposa County rangeland/livestock operations due to the drought conditions that began October 15, 2006, and are continuing, and this Board hereby declares a local emergency in Mariposa County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of December, 2007, by unanimous vote.



JANET BIBBY, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margie Williams", written over a horizontal line.

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "TP Guarino", written over a horizontal line.

THOMAS P. GUARINO
County Counsel

**MARIPOSA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
& WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER
Post Office Box 905, 5009 Fairgrounds Road
Mariposa, California 95338-0905

Phone (209) 966-2075
Fax (209) 966-2056

Henry R. Renteria, Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schiever Avenue
Mather, California 95655-4203

18 December 2007

Dear Director Renteria:

I am writing to re-affirm the USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation due to drought for Mariposa County as a Primary County. Due to a significant lack of precipitation from October 15, 2006 and continuing to the present, agricultural producers have experienced significant losses to date. This loss has been due to a combination of factors which include the lack of adequate rainfall at critical times and higher than normal temperatures which occurred during the rangeland grass-growing season up to the present time and continuing. Rangeland forage production losses of greater than 30% were sustained due to the continued lack of adequate precipitation.

With the current and continuing drought conditions come many other increased cost factors for our rangeland/livestock producers. The loss estimates do not include the cost of supplemental feed, loss of hay sale revenues as hay is retained instead of being sold, the decrease in livestock weight gain, livestock losses, the loss due to the lower carrying capacity of rangeland resulting in early sales of animals (at a lower price), and the cost of transporting animals outside Mariposa County to other unaffected grazing areas. Furthermore herd sizes are being reduced in order to reduce the costs of feeding and this will impact the amount of livestock production in subsequent years as herds will need to be built back up when conditions improve.

The Mariposa County Department of Agriculture will continue to survey other segments of the livestock industry. As that loss information becomes available it will be forwarded to you.

Thank you for your attention to our request to re-affirm the USDA primary disaster declaration designation for Mariposa County's rangeland and livestock industry.

Sincerely,



Cathi Boze
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

DEPARTMENT: Agricultural Commissioner

BY: Cathi Boze
PHONE: 966-2075

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Resolution ratifying the USDA Primary Disaster Declaration Request for Mariposa County rangeland/livestock operations due to drought conditions by the Agricultural Commissioner

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The California County Agricultural Commissioner Disaster Report is the first step in the request for USDA Primary Disaster Declaration Designation. The drought conditions that began in October 2006 and continue to the present time have caused a significant loss in range forage production and value in Mariposa County. Current survey information shows anticipated rangeland forage production losses of 35 - 40% due to lack of adequate rainfall at critical times and prolonged freezing temperatures during the growing season. The lack of moisture was further exacerbated by periods of unseasonable warmth. This request and designation will enable Mariposa County producers to become eligible for various USDA compensation programs.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Mariposa County producers will not be eligible for any possible federal aid.

Financial Impact? () Yes (x) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes (x) No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Letter to OES
Source:		California County Agricultural Commissioner
		Disaster Report
Internal Transfer		
Unanticipated Revenue	_____ 4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	_____ 4/5's vote	
Contingency	_____ 4/5's vote	
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 07-118 Ord. No. _____
Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
Absent: _____
MW) Approved
() Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
Comments:

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: _____
Deputy

CAO: *[Signature]*



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
3650 SCHRIEVER AVENUE
MATHER, CALIFORNIA 95655
(916) 845-8510
FAX: 845-8511



April 5, 2007

RECEIVED APR 10 2007

The Honorable Mike Johanns, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th Street & Independence, S.W.
Washington, District of Columbia 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

This is to request that you designate Mariposa County, in the State of California, a disaster area due to drought conditions that began October 15, 2006, and are continuing. The lack of moisture was further exacerbated by periods of unseasonable warmth. Though the ultimate effects resulting from the unseasonable weather may not be known for some time, rangeland production loss is expected to exceed 38 percent. It is doubtful that this figure will improve over the next few weeks since the rangeland grasses and forbs are beginning to seed.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services requested that the county agricultural commissioner submit a *California County Agricultural Commissioner Disaster Report*, which is enclosed for your review. Preliminary surveys of Mariposa County growers indicate agricultural damage/loss estimates exceed \$2.6 million. This estimate does not include the costs of supplemental feeding, the decrease in livestock weight gain, livestock losses, and the transporting of animals outside Mariposa County to less affected rangeland areas. This damage will be devastating to affected producers, farm-related businesses and the general economy of the county.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 845-8510, or your staff may contact Karma Hackney, Program Manager, Individual Assistance Section, at (916) 845-8141. Your favorable consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry R. Renteria".

HENRY R. RENTERIA
Director

Enclosure

- c: Mariposa County OES
- Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
- Mariposa County Agricultural Commissioner
- Nels Christensen, Farm Loan Chief, USDA
- Larry Plumb, USDA
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- OES Regional Administrator



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
RESPONSE AND RECOVERY DIVISION
RECOVERY BRANCH, INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE SECTION
3650 SCHRIEVER AVENUE
MATHER, CALIFORNIA 95655
PHONE: (916) 845-8510 FAX: (916) 845-8395



May 23, 2007

RECEIVED MAY 29 2007

Ms. Janet Bibby, Chairperson
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 784
Mariposa, California 95338

Dear Chairperson Bibby:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted a Secretarial disaster designation for the primary Counties of **Kern, Kings, Lake Mariposa, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara** and the contiguous Counties of **Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, San Bernardino, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, and Yolo** due to agriculture losses caused by drought that began October 15, 2006, and continuing.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services is providing the enclosed information regarding this designation. Please inform potential applicants throughout your county of this designation and information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karma Hackney".

KARMA HACKNEY
Program Manager

Enclosure

c: Mariposa County OES
Mariposa County Agricultural Commissioner
California Department of Food and Agriculture
OES Regional Administrator

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Designation 6 Primary Counties – Drought (S2512)

**Designation
Information**

The following table illustrates the designation information.

Eligible Primary County(s):	Kern, Kings, Lake Mariposa, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara
Eligible Contiguous County(s):	Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, San Bernardino, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo
Event:	Drought that began October 15, 2006, and continuing.
Assistance made available by designation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency farm loans for actual losses as a direct result of the disaster • Up to a maximum of \$500,000 • Interest rate of 3.75 percent
Application deadline:	January 9, 2008
Who may apply:	Farmers and ranchers who conduct family-sized farming operations
How to apply:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office listed in the local telephone directory under U.S. Government, Agriculture • Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD)
USDA website for additional information:	www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/disaster/assistance1.htm