



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

January 15, 2014

The Honorable Edmund Brown  
Governor  
State of California  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 27 California counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. The primary counties included under this designation are:

Alameda	Fresno	Mariposa	San Benito	Santa Clara
Alpine	Inyo	Merced	San Bernardino	Stanislaus
Amador	Kern	Mono	San Joaquin	Tulare
Calaveras	Kings	Monterey	San Luis Obispo	Tuolumne
Contra Costa	Los Angeles	Sacramento	Santa Barbara	Ventura
El Dorado	Madera			

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of: (1) D2 (Drought-Severe) for 8 or more consecutive weeks; or (2) D3 (Drought-Extreme) or D4 (Drought-Exceptional).

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, eight counties are named as contiguous disaster counties. The contiguous counties included under this designation are:

Orange	Riverside	Santa Cruz	Sutter
Placer	San Mateo	Solano	Yolo

Also, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in adjacent States are named as contiguous disaster areas. Those States, counties, and numbers are:

**Contiguous counties in Adjacent States:**

<b>Arizona</b>	<b>(2)</b>	
La Paz	Mohave	
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>(6)</b>	
Clark	Esmeralda	Mineral
Douglas	Lyon	Nye

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm, and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary