

DEPARTMENT: Agricultural Commissioner

BY: Cathi Boze
PHONE: 966-2075

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Resolution ratifying the USDA Primary Disaster Declaration Request for Mariposa County agricultural operations due to fires 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 fire event conditions that began on June 21, 2008, and continue to the present time have caused a significant loss in infrastructure, current and future rangeland forage production and value, and agricultural production in Mariposa County. Preliminary survey information shows significant infrastructure and forage production losses due to the fires which are continuing to increase. This request and designation will enable Mariposa County agricultural 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. 08-359 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
 Absent: _____
 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]

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

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

5 August 2008

Dear Director Renteria:

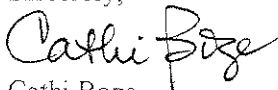
Attached is the preliminary California County Agricultural Commissioner's Disaster Report for the fire events that began on June 21, 2008, and continue to the present time that have caused a significant loss in infrastructure, current and future rangeland forage production and value, and agricultural production in Mariposa County. Please use this report for consideration in seeking a USDA primary disaster declaration for Mariposa County's agricultural producers.

The majority of the damage sustained by agricultural producers in Mariposa County occurred in the western areas – primarily White Rock/Le Grand area, Catheys Valley, Coulterville, and Greeley Hill – west to the Merced County line. A survey of agricultural producers in those areas of Mariposa County has revealed damage to infrastructure due to the fires as well as to current and future rangeland forage production. The damage includes significant loss of fencing, posts and stakes, and other essential agricultural infrastructure. Rangeland fires have a multi-year impact – it takes at least three years of *normal* rainfall to recover back to average forage production. In addition, the loss of forage production will require increased supplemental feed to replace the dryland forage loss. The loss estimates do not include the cost of supplemental feed, the loss due to the lower carrying capacity of rangeland resulting in early sales of animals; and the cost of transporting animals outside Mariposa County to other unaffected grazing areas. Furthermore the reduction in herd sizes in order to reduce the costs of feeding will impact the amount of livestock production in subsequent years as herds will need to be built back up when conditions improve. The preliminary assessment estimate of the damage sustained due to the fire events is \$200,000. Many of the agricultural producers have been unable to access their property to assess the damage at this time.

The Mariposa County Department of Agriculture will continue to survey other segments of the agricultural community. Preliminary survey information shows significant infrastructure and forage production losses due to the fires which are continuing to increase. As that loss information becomes available it will be forwarded to you.

Please use this letter and attached reports for consideration of a USDA primary disaster declaration designation for Mariposa County's agricultural industry.

Sincerely,



Cathi Boze
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

CALIFORNIA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER DISASTER REPORT

1. County:		2. Date of Disaster:	3. Type and Brief Description of Disaster:				
MARIPOSA		June 21, 2008, to present, and continuing	Fires – Loss of infrastructure, fencing, posts and stakes due to fires.				
4. Crops Damaged: <small>(List crops in order of importance, including hay & pasture.)</small>	5. 5-Yr. Avg. Yield: <small>(From Annual Crop Report)</small>	6. 5-Yr. Avg. Price: <small>(From Annual Crop Report)</small>	7. Acres Planted	8. Acres Damaged	9. Acres Not Planted	10. Est. Yield:	11. Est. Dollar Loss: <small>Column No.: [(5 - 10) x 7 + (5 x 9)] x 6</small>
Rangeland	1.0 acre	\$16.22/acre	448,875				
12. County's Total Crop Acres: 449.357 (2007 Mariposa County Crop Report)							

13. Total Farms in County: (Use most recent U.S. Farm Census number.)		Number		
		284		
14. Farms with Production Losses of:		Number		
100%				
90 to 99%				
80 to 89%				
70 to 79%				
60 to 69%				
50 to 59%				
40 to 49%				
30 to 39%				
20 to 29%				
Less than 20%				
15. Livestock and Poultry Losses of:		Number Destroyed/Damaged	3-Year Avg. Price (From Annual Crop Report)	Dollar Loss
Cattle (Excluding milk cows)				
Milk Cows				
Milk Production				
Sheep				
Hogs				
Poultry				
Aquaculture				
Apiary				
Other				
16. Farms with <u>Physical</u> Losses of:		Number		
Major		9		
Minor		6		
17. Farm Facilities Damaged:		Number		
		Destroyed	Major	Minor
Dwellings & Service Buildings				
Structures				
Machinery & Equipment				
Land Damages (Acres)			3000	\$48,660/yr for 3 years = \$145,980
Other (fencing, posts, stakes, etc.)			9	6 \$40,000+

Remarks: Rangeland value is calculated on value per acre (rent). The total dollar loss is for infrastructure and rangeland forage only (at least 3 years production lost). It does not include the cost of supplemental feeding, decrease in livestock weight gain, livestock losses, or any other cost factors caused by limited forage growth.