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: $
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes (x) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $
Additional Funding Needed: $
Source: 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.07-578 Ord. No. ______
Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: ______
Absent: ______
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: __________
Revised Dec. 2002
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:

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM

THOMAS P. GUARINO
County Counsel
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: $
Budgeted in Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $
Additional Funding Needed: $
Source:

Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue
Transfer Between Funds
Contingency
( ) General ( ) Other
__ __ 4/5's vote
__ __ 4/5's vote
__ __ 4/5's vote

CLERK'S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: 52-118  Ord. No. ___
Vote - Ayes: ___  Noes: ___
Absent: ___
( ) 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 Action Necessary

Comments:

Revised Dec. 2006
April 5, 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,

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
May 23, 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,

KARMA HACKNEY
Program Manager

Enclosure

c: Mariposa County OES
   Mariposa County Agricultural Commissioner
   California Department of Food and Agriculture
   OES Regional Administrator
The following table illustrates the designation information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Primary County(s):</th>
<th>Kern, Kings, Lake Mariposa, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible Contiguous County(s):</td>
<td>Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, San Bernardino, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event:</td>
<td>Drought that began October 15, 2006, and continuing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Assistance made available by designation: | • 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: | • 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 |