



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

March 5, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 50 California counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

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, additional areas of your state and adjacent states are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom J. Vilsack", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure

## Disaster Designation Areas for California and Contiguous States

### Primary Counties:

|                   |             |           |                |            |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| <b>California</b> | <b>(50)</b> |           |                |            |
| Alameda           | Glenn       | Marin     | Riverside      | Solano     |
| Alpine            | Humboldt    | Mariposa  | Sacramento     | Sonoma     |
| Amador            | Imperial    | Mendocino | San Bernardino | Stanislaus |
| Butte             | Inyo        | Merced    | San Francisco  | Sutter     |
| Calaveras         | Kern        | Modoc     | San Joaquin    | Tehama     |
| Colusa            | Kings       | Mono      | San Mateo      | Trinity    |
| Contra Costa      | Lake        | Napa      | Santa Clara    | Tulare     |
| Del Norte         | Lassen      | Nevada    | Shasta         | Tuolumne   |
| El Dorado         | Los Angeles | Placer    | Sierra         | Yolo       |
| Fresno            | Madera      | Plumas    | Siskiyou       | Yuba       |

### Contiguous Counties:

|                   |            |                 |            |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>California</b> | <b>(8)</b> |                 |            |
| Monterey          | San Benito | San Luis Obispo | Santa Cruz |
| Orange            | San Diego  | Santa Barbara   | Ventura    |

In addition, 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>(3)</b> |         |             |
| La Paz         | Mohave     | Yuma    |             |
| <b>Nevada</b>  | <b>(8)</b> |         |             |
| Clark          | Esmeralda  | Mineral | Washoe      |
| Douglas        | Lyon       | Nye     | Carson City |
| <b>Oregon</b>  | <b>(5)</b> |         |             |
| Curry          | Josephine  | Lake    |             |
| Jackson        | Klamath    |         |             |