



April 15, 2013

Mr. Bruce Gibson, Chairperson
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey St, Rm D430
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Dear Chairperson Gibson:

On April, 10, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture granted a Secretarial disaster designation for the primary counties of **Monterey** and **San Luis Obispo** and the contiguous counties of **Fresno, Kern, Kings, San Benito, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz**. This designation is a result of the final rule announced for the USDA Disaster Designation Process (7 CFR 759), which includes the nearly automatic approval for counties with drought intensity levels of D2 (for 8 consecutive weeks), D3, and D4 as reported on the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The California Emergency Management Agency is providing the enclosed information regarding this designation. Please inform potential applicants throughout your county of this designation and information.

Sincerely,

KARMA HACKNEY
Individual Assistance Officer



Enclosure

- c: San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services
San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
John Rowden, Emergency Management Coordinator, CDFA
Cal EMA Recovery Division
Cal EMA Regional Administrator
Cal EMA Individual Assistance

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Designation USDA #S3504 - D2, D3, D4 Drought

**Designation
Information**

The following table illustrates the designation information.

Eligible Primary County(s):	Monterey, San Luis Obispo
Eligible Contiguous County(s):	Fresno, Kern, Kings, San Benito, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz
Event:	Final rule for the USDA Disaster Designation Process (7 CFR 759), which includes the nearly automatic approval for counties with drought intensity levels of D2 (for 8 consecutive weeks), D3, and D4 as reported on the U.S. Drought Monitor. Incident Period: February 12, 2013, through April 08, 2013
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
Application deadline:	December 10, 2013
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





United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

April 10, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor
State of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

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

Monterey

San Luis Obispo

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties have 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, six counties are named as contiguous disaster counties. The contiguous counties included under this designation are:

Fresno
Kern

Kings
San Benito

Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz

Other counties in California may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

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

List of Primary and Contiguous Counties

St/Co FIPS Code	Primary	STATE	St/Co FIPS Code	Contiguous	STATE
06053	Monterey	California	06019	Fresno	California
06079	San Luis Obispo	California	06029	Kern	California
			06031	Kings	California
			06069	San Benito	California
			06083	Santa Barbara	California
			06087	Santa Cruz	California



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop 0517
Room 3642
Washington, DC
20250-0517

April 10, 2013

TO: State Executive Director(s)
California

Steven J. Peterson

FROM: Disaster Assistance Branch/Emergencies Section (DAB/ES)

SUBJECT: Secretarial Disaster Designation S3504

Please carefully review the following information concerning the subject disaster designation:

Secretarial Designation Number:	S3504
Approval date by the Secretary:	04/10/2013
Termination Date - EM loan applications:	12/10/2013
Beginning date – Incident period: (For determining EM loan security values)	02/12/2013
Ending Date - Incident Period:	04/08/2013
Crop Year(s) Affected:	2013
Disaster description:	Drought (Fast Track)

[Complete List of Primary Counties, Contiguous Counties, and Adjacent States, are in the attached ADDENDUM]

Please proceed to take the appropriate actions required by 7 CFR 759.

EXPIRATION DATE: April 30, 2014

FILING INSTRUCTIONS
Farm Loan Programs



USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

Release Date: April 12, 2013
Release Number: CA 13538-01

Media Contact: Richard Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available to California Small Businesses

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Small, nonfarm businesses in 8 California counties of are now eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). “These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the drought that occurred February 12 – April 8, 2013, in the primary counties of Monterey and San Luis Obispo,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary California counties: Monterey and San Luis Obispo;
Neighboring California counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, San Benito, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

“SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster,” Judd said.

Small, nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, nonprofit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

“Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4% for businesses and 2.875% for private, nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years, and are available to small businesses and most private, non-profits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster on April 10, 2013.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Information and application forms are also available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **December 10, 2013**.

SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841
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NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Release 0063.13

Kent Politsch
202-720-7807
kent.politsch@wdc.usda.gov

USDA Designates 2 Counties in California as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

WASHINGTON, April 10, 2013 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties in California as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by the recent drought.

"Our hearts go out to those California farmers and ranchers affected by recent natural disasters," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "President Obama and I are committed to ensuring that agriculture remains a bright spot in our nation's economy by sustaining the successes of America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through these difficult times. We're also telling California producers that USDA stands with you and your communities when severe weather and natural disasters threaten to disrupt your livelihood."

Farmers and ranchers in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Santa Barbara, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties in California also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas April 10, 2013, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

The Obama Administration remains committed to helping the thousands of farm families and businesses struggling with natural disasters. Actions taken by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in 2012 to provide assistance to producers impacted by the drought included:

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The Obama Administration remains committed to helping the thousands of farm families and businesses struggling with natural disasters. Actions taken by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in 2012 to provide assistance to producers impacted by the drought included:

- Extended emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres, freeing up a record 2.8 million acres and as much as \$200 million in forage and feed for ranchers during a challenging time.
- Purchased \$170 million of pork, lamb, chicken, and catfish for federal food nutrition assistance programs, including food banks, to help relieve pressure on American livestock producers and bring the nation's meat supply in line with demand.
- Reduced the emergency loan rate, from 3.75 percent to 2.375 percent, as well as making emergency loans available earlier in the season.
- Allowing haying or grazing of cover crops without impacting the insurability of planted 2013 spring crops.
- USDA worked with crop insurance companies to provide flexibility to farmers, and one-third of all policyholders took advantage of the extended payment period.
- Authorized \$16 million in existing funds from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to target states experiencing exceptional and extreme drought.
- Transferred \$14 million in unobligated program funds into the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to help farmers and ranchers rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.