



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ACTION REQUEST

TO: Dan Dunmoyer, Deputy Chief of Staff and Cabinet Secretary
Chris Kahn, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Secretary

FROM: A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

PREPARED BY: Eric Stein, Deputy Secretary of Legislation and Policy
California Department of Food and Agriculture

DATE: January 31, 2007

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding: Animal Care Preparedness During Disasters

Request for Approval Request for Action

Request for Cabinet Discussion

TIME FACTOR: Due January 31, 2007

SUMMARY: AB 450 (Yee, Chapter 604, Statutes of 2006) required the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to approve, adopt and incorporate the California Animal Response in Emergency System (CARES) into Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). No later than January 31, 2007, the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is required to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with OES to incorporate the CARES program into their emergency planning. CDFA is seeking the approval of the attached MOU.

DISCUSSION/PRO-CON ARGUMENTS:

- Pro: The MOU will help support California counties to complete County Emergency Plans and to include pets, livestock, and service animals.
- Con: Expanding SEMS to include CARES will increase workload and make it difficult for CDFA to continue existing obligations and will require additional funding support.

EFFECT ON EXISTING LAW: The MOU is required pursuant to the California Food and Agricultural Code section 482 and in furtherance of the regulations adopted pursuant to Government Code sections 8550 and 8551, under the "California Emergency Services Act" of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

ESTIMATED COST: Since CDFA has been identified in the Administrative Order as the lead agency at the state level for coordinating pet and livestock evacuations, this proposal would formalize

Memorandum of Understanding

The purpose of this agreement is to establish a basis for mutual communication and coordination in supporting local governments in their disaster planning efforts related to animal evacuation, shelter and care during disasters. This agreement is entered into pursuant to the California Food and Agricultural Code section 482 and in furtherance of the regulations adopted pursuant to Government Code sections 8550 and 8551, under the "California Emergency Services Act" of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Whereas, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has primary responsibility for the health of the State's animal and plant agriculture, food safety and authority in administering regulatory programs for livestock diseases of state and national concern, and

Whereas, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has primary responsibility for coordinating the state's disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities, assisted by state agencies, and

Whereas, there currently exists an Administrative Order between CDFA and OES that generally defines the responsibilities of CDFA during a time of emergency in relation to the California Animal Emergency Response System (CARES),

Therefore, CDFA and OES agree:

1. The coordination and support activities described in this memorandum of understanding will be impacted by the degree of resource availability necessary to achieve the goals of both agencies and to continue existing obligations;
2. CDFA and OES will encourage and support local governments in their efforts to include livestock, service animals and companion animals in disaster planning in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS);
3. CDFA and OES will coordinate to develop emergency responder roles and responsibilities related animal evacuation, shelter and veterinary care during disasters that will be incorporated into the State Emergency Response Plan and/or supporting documents such as CARES;
4. CDFA will provide technical expertise to OES to document potential emergency response resource needs and develop and support resource identification and tracking systems that can be used to address animal related emergency events during disasters.

5. CDFA and OES will coordinate the integration of collaborating organizations, agencies and individuals into California animal response emergency planning and preparedness projects.
6. During a disaster, OES will support the incorporation of animal evacuation, care and shelter needs into the emergency response in accordance with SEMS and NIMS.
7. During a disaster, CDFA will provide technical expertise to support resource deployment intended to address animal evacuation, shelter and veterinary care in accordance with SEMS and NIMS.
8. CDFA and OES will collaborate to develop, propose and/or maintain funding strategies related to this Memorandum of Understanding.

APPROVAL

The provisions hereof shall become effective on the date of signature below.



HENRY R. RENTERIA
Director
Office of Emergency Services



A.G. KAWAMURA
Secretary
California Department of Food
and Agriculture

Date: 01/31/07

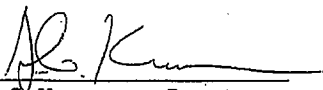
Date: 1/31/07

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those responsibilities. However, because the current Departmental Veterinary Medical Officer workload includes core mission area responsibilities such as, poultry and livestock disease monitoring, investigation, sampling, diagnostic testing, reporting, and catastrophic animal disease prevention and control duties, the urgency for accomplishing the tasks as described by the Administrative Order may not be fully achieved. In order to meet potential preparedness expectations in a reasonable timeframe, CDFA would require funding to support the staff needed to implement and service the system.

RECOMMENDATION: CDFA recommends the attached MOU between CDFA and OES be approved.

APPROVED:



A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

1/31/07
Date

Dan Dunmoyer
Deputy Chief of Staff and Cabinet Secretary

Date

Chris Kahn
Deputy Chief of Staff and Cabinet Secretary

Date