



Cal E·M·A

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

May 28, 2013

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Suite 200A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Due to ongoing drought conditions in the State of California, the California Emergency Management Agency is requesting that the U.S. Department of Agriculture designate all eligible counties in the state as disaster areas due to drought beginning Fall 2012 and continuing.

Over the course of several months, the U.S. Drought Monitor has shown counties throughout California with either drought severity levels of D1 or D2. With the onset of summer, dry conditions are expected to become more severe and many of the reported losses to rangeland forage do not include the cost of supplemental feeding, or losses as a result of a reduction in herd size or weaning calves early and selling below normal weight. Damages due to drought conditions are impacting producers, farm-related businesses, and the economy.

A *California County Agricultural Commissioner Disaster Report* will continue to be submitted to your office for counties with qualifying losses.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at (916) 845-8506, or your staff may contact Ms. Karma Hackney, Individual Assistance Officer, at (916) 845-8141.

Sincerely,

MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
Secretary

c: Ken Ogden, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
John Rowden, Emergency Management Coordinator, CDFA