



Office of the Under Secretary
for Farm Production and Conservation
Washington, D.C. 20250

September 17, 2026

THE HONORABLE GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Per 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating three California counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

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 eight or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

Per section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State and an adjacent State 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.

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 Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loan assistance, provided eligibility requirements are met. 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. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact FPAC.BC.Congressional@usda.gov, reference disaster designation number 2026N00002813.

Sincerely,

Brooke S. Appleton
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosure

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR CALIFORNIA AND A CONTIGUOUS STATE

Primary Counties:

California	(3)	
Del Norte	Humboldt	Siskiyou

Contiguous Counties:

California	(4)		
Mendocino	Modoc	Shasta	Trinity

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

Oregon	(4)		
Curry	Jackson	Josephine	Klamath