April 24, 2024

THE HONORABLE GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

On November 1, 2023, the Director of California's Governor's Office of Emergency Services, requested a primary county disaster designation for Imperial County in California, due to damage and losses caused by a monsoon, heavy rainstorms, and flash flooding that occurred on September 1, 2023. I apologize for the delayed response.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reviewed the loss assessment reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating Imperial County as a primary natural disaster area. In accordance with Section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your state and a contiguous 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.

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 loans, 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.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR CALIFORNIA AND A CONTIGOUS STATE

Primary County

California   **(1)**
Imperial

Contiguous Counties:

California   **(2)**
Riverside   San Diego

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

Arizona   **(2)**
La Paz   Yuma