



April 4, 2019

D2019-05

TO: District Agricultural Association CEOs & Board Chairs

SUBJECT: Governor Newsom Proclaims State of Emergency

The purpose of this letter is to inform all DAAs that Governor Newsom has proclaimed a State of Emergency on Wildfires to protect the state's most vulnerable communities.

California experienced the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in its history in 2017 and 2018. Fueled by drought, an unprecedented buildup of dry vegetation and extreme winds, the size and intensity of these wildfires caused the loss of more than 100 lives, destroyed thousands of homes, and exposed millions of urban and rural Californians to unhealthy air.

The Governor is directing the Administration to immediately expedite forest management projects that will protect over 200 of California's most wildfire-vulnerable communities. The proliferation of new homes in the wildland-urban interface magnify the threat and place more people and property at risk than in preceding decades. More than 25 million acres of California wildlands are classified as under very high or extreme fire threat, extending that risk to over half the state.

This action follows the release of a report titled "[Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report](#)" (Report) dated February 22, 2019 by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), which identified 35-priority fuel-reduction projects that can be implemented immediately to help reduce the public safety risk for these communities. Project examples include removal of hazardous dead trees, vegetation clearing, creation of fuel breaks and community defensible spaces and creation of ingress and egress corridors.

Item number 6 of the [Governors Proclamation Of A State Of Emergency](#) states that "any state-owned properties, that the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) determines are suitable for temporary sheltering of fuel crews completing the priority fuels reduction projects, shall be made available to Cal OES for this purpose".

The state of emergency provides time-saving waivers of administrative and regulatory requirements to protect public safety and allow for action to be taken in the next 12 months.

Fairs and Expositions Branch (F&E) will work with Cal OES and identify if any of the DAAs located on state-owned property are being considered for sheltering of fuel crews



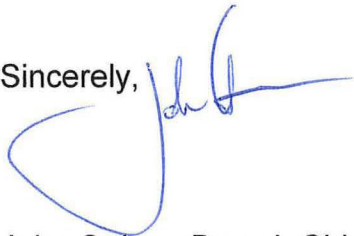
April 4, 2019

Page 2

and if there will be any type of reimbursement for use of fairgrounds. Any new information F&E learns about the Governor Proclamation and potential use of fairgrounds—will be communicated through future correspondence to DAAs. Also, F&E is aware that the DAAs have upcoming fair events and are utilized for interim events. To the extent possible we will work with the DAAs and Cal OES to ensure that the requirements of the emergency declaration are balanced with the needs of the DAAs.

We have included all fairs in the distribution of this letter to ensure wide distribution of this information. If your DAA is contacted by Cal OES or Cal Fire to serve as a sheltering or staging center, please contact Mike Francesconi by email at [mike.francesconi@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:mike.francesconi@cdfa.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-900-5365.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Quiroz", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

John Quiroz, Branch Chief  
Fairs & Expositions Branch