



MEDIA ADVISORY

MONO COUNTY, *California's Eastern Sierra*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 8, 2014

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U.S. Department of Agriculture Designates Drought Relief *Mono and Inyo are eligible for State of Nevada Disaster Designation as California Contiguous Counties*

Mono County, Calif. – On March 5, 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture granted disaster designation for certain counties in the State of Nevada, also including Inyo and Mono Counties in the State of California. This provides nearly automatic approval for assistance in counties that meet the required drought intensity levels.

Mono County Board of Supervisors Chairman Larry K. Johnston commented, “This drought is serious, farmers and local ranchers should avail themselves of all possible resources. The resources being made available to support our local ranchers and farmers will help sustain them across this dry period.”

Assistance made available by this designation includes; emergency farm loans for actual losses as a direct result of the disaster up to a maximum of \$500,000, for farmers and ranchers who conduct family-sized farming operations. U. S. Small Business Administration has declared assistance available by this designation; they will be providing Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans to small, non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private non-profit organizations of any size.

Please visit the USDA website for additional information at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA.
Or contact U.S. Small Business Administration at 1-800-659-2955, or visit SBA’s website at:
www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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Mono County offers a rural setting with the most spectacular landscapes in the state. Situated between the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the California/Nevada border, Mono County has a land area of 3,030 square miles, or just over 2 million acres, 94% of which is publicly owned. Much of this land is contained in the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests. As a result, Mono County is home to vast scenic and recreational resources, and has unsurpassed access to wilderness and adventure.

The county is home to, and named after Mono Lake, which is a large high-desert saline lake. Also located in the county is the historic gold rush town of Bodie, which during its heyday in the late 1800's was home to as many as 7,000 people, and is today maintained as a State Historic Park for the public to come and enjoy. The county seat is proudly located in Bridgeport. Scenic Highway 395 weaves its way north-south through the heart of the county, effectively dividing the steep mountains to the west from the vast desert valley to the east. As it provides access to Yosemite National Park via Lee Vining, it passes beneath towering peaks, and past broad desert expanses.