



**Agricultural Commissioner**  
Henry S. Gonzales

**Chief Deputy Agricultural  
Commissioner**  
Korinne M. Bell

December 22, 2017  
Brenda Estrada, County Executive Director  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Services Agency  
920 E. Stowell Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Dear Ms. Estrada:

This letter is to accompany the attached California County Agricultural Commissioner Disaster Report. The Thomas Fire which started on December 4, 2017 and is yet to be fully contained has impacted over 10,289 acres of irrigated cropland and another 60,000 acres of rangeland here in Ventura County. This disaster report is preliminary to a more exact assessment currently being conducted and not expected to be completed until sometime in the late-spring to early summer of 2018. The primary reason for this timetable is the uncertainty of the recovery of tree crops such as avocados and lemons. As you know fire damage to tree crops is not fully evident until sometime after the event. We will have a better indication of the damage in the spring when blossoms appear or do not appear due to the fire damage.

The estimated damage to current and future crops, machinery and equipment, dwellings, service buildings, and other structures due to the fire is \$171,296,703. This is a conservative figure and only includes dwellings in agricultural settings. This estimate does not include the losses in wages of agricultural workers and nothing can measure the pain and suffering of the farmers that have lost much of their livelihood.

I ask that you assist in making your staff and disaster assistance programs promptly available to the many Ventura County farmers that may otherwise go out of business. My staff and I are available to help communicate the availability of Farm Service Agency disaster assistance information. Please let us know if we can be of more specific assistance.

Sincerely,

Henry S. Gonzales  
Agricultural Commissioner  
County of Ventura

C: Mike Powers, CEO Ventura County  
Steve Bennett, Supervisor District 1  
Linda Parks, Supervisor District 2  
Kelly Long, Supervisor District 3  
Peter C. Foy, Supervisor District 4  
John C. Zaragoza, Supervisor District 5 – Chair  
Kevin McGowan, Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services



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Lidia Armas, Cal EMA, Individual Assistance Branch  
Sheryl Fuller DVM, Emergency Programs Animal Health Branch, CDFA

Corrected December 27, 2017