

Mendocino County NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

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U.S Small Business Administration Declares Mendocino County a Disaster Area Due to Drought Conditions.

On April 22, 2022 the U.S. Small Business Administration declared the County of Mendocino a disaster area. This declaration is a result of an April 8, 2022, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster designation due to drought severity levels of D2 (for eight consecutive weeks), D3, and D4, as identified on the U.S. Drought Monitor.

As a result of this declaration, Mendocino County agricultural producers can apply to the <u>USDA</u> <u>Farm Service Agency's Emergency Loan Program</u>. Producers can borrow up to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Additionally, small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations of any size in Mendocino County are now eligible to apply for low-interest deferral disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

For additional information, please email the Mendocino County Water Agency at <u>mcwa@mendocinocounty.org</u>.