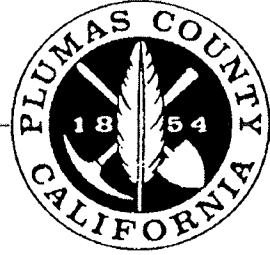


COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Gabriel Hydrick



January 19, 2021

Kari Morrow, Director of Administrative Services
Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Morrow,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Annual Financial Statements for Plumas and Sierra Counties as related to the Food and Agriculture Code 224(g) on December 28, 2020. Plumas and Sierra Counties are grateful to take this opportunity to respond to our inability to "maintain county general fund support for agricultural commissioner services at least equal to the average amount expended for the five preceding fiscal years, unless the county is facing unusual economic hardships that precludes that support." Further, the counties respectfully request a waiver of the funding requirements under Food and Agriculture Code § 225.5 for FY 2019-2020.

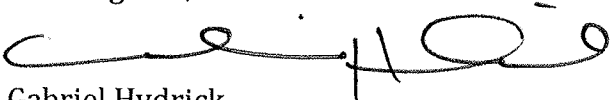
The counties are committed to supporting services of the Agricultural Commissioner. In FY 2018-2019, the County made a special contribution of \$63,917 for the purchase of two trucks for use in the agricultural programs. Due to overall budget constraints, this money was not available again for the FY 2019-2020. This was a significant factor that resulted in the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement not being met.

The COVID-19 pandemic also directly reduced the expenditures in agricultural programs by \$22,483 and reduced the expenditures in training and travel by \$3,023.

CalCATS – The department budgeted \$18,000 for this program. Due to a delayed rollout only \$2,100 was expended.

If it weren't for the unprecedented economic uncertainty due to COVID-19 through the latter part of FY 19/20 and the special contribution for the two trucks in FY 18/19 the counties likely would have met the MOE. Plumas and Sierra Counties are committed to ongoing support of Agricultural Commissioner services, as agriculture is an economic life source and a way of life for this corner of rural California. I respectfully request that the requirements contained in Food and Agriculture Code § 224 et. Seq. be waived and that Plumas and Sierra Counties be given the full FY 19-20 Unclaimed Gas Tax reimbursements. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,


Gabriel Hydrick
County Administrator

CC:

Plumas County Board of Supervisors
Sierra County Board of Supervisors
Plumas County Agricultural Commissioner
Plumas County Auditor
County Counsel, Plumas County