

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Staff Presentation Worksheet**

Presentation Date: September 14, 2010      Time: 10:00 a.m.      Length: 15 Minutes

Presentation Title:      2010 Agricultural Emergency Declaration

Department:      Emergency Management

Presenters:      Dana Robinson and Nancy Bush

**POLICY QUESTION:** Clackamas County Emergency Management (CCEM) is requesting that the BCC sign the Agriculture Emergency Declaration so that Governor Kulongoski may seek a disaster declaration by the US Secretary of Agriculture so that agricultural businesses in Clackamas County may receive Federal assistance.

**ISSUE & BACKGROUND:** The US Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency requested that the counties of Clackamas and Multnomah send disaster declarations to Governor Kulongoski so that he can request a federal declaration from the Secretary of Agriculture. The declaration is covering the unusually cool and rainy months of April - June 2010. The precise percentage of yield loss to affected crops is uncertain now, but the Farms Services Agency is estimating these ranges:

- Marion berries and other cane berries      30% - 50%
- Strawberries      25% - 40%
- Late planted vegetables and field corn      20% - 40%

The declaration the BCC is being asked to approve and sign will make affected producers in Clackamas County eligible for Farm Service Agency low interest emergency loans and will make an increased number of growers eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE). In addition, Farm Service Agency borrowers who are unable to make loan payments timely due to disaster conditions may qualify for rescheduling of payments.

The Department of Emergency Management may be asked to post a notice through the media in order to assist with finding agricultural producers that have been affected by the unusually cool and rainy growing season. However, the tracking and work related to the loans is handled by the Farm Services Administration.

**QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION:** The BCC is being asked to approve the Clackamas County Agricultural Declaration so that it may be signed and delivered to Governor Kulongoski.

**OPTIONS AVAILABLE:** Option 1) Sign declaration so that agricultural growers may receive federal assistance. Only cost to county may be sending out a notice for

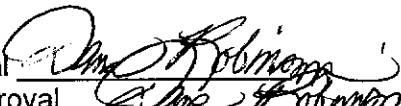
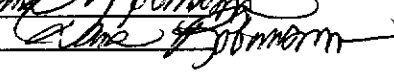
agricultural producers to sign up losses through the Farm Services Administration.  
Option 2) Do not sign the declaration, which will keep agricultural businesses from receiving federal aid. No cost to the county.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Emergency Management recommends that the BCC approve and sign the declaration so that Clackamas County agricultural producers may be eligible for federal loans. There are no anticipated problems for this action.

If the BCC decides not to sign the declaration, the agricultural community will not have federal loans and programs available to them to assist with the low production of crops this growing season. This will cause hardship for producers and impact future income.

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Bush, Assistant Director, Department of Emergency Management.

Division Director/Head Approval   
Department Director/Head Approval   
County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Nancy Bush at 503-655-8665