



June 4, 2024

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**CONTINUATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO DETECTION OF
BEET LEAFHOPPERS**
Fiscal Impact: None

The purpose of this letter is to request your Board extend for an additional 60 days the Local Emergency due to detection of Beet Leafhoppers, an invasive species that acts as a vector for the Curly Top Virus.

Beet Leafhoppers live on vegetation in the foothills near the valley floor and migrate towards the valley floor and tomato crops on the valley floor when foothill vegetation begins to dry out. The Curly Top Virus affects tomatoes, which are annually grown in California on approximately 235,000 acres, including 10,200 acres in 2022 and 8,000 in 2021 in Kern County, at an annual production cost in the \$5,000 per acre range. On April 9, 2024, a local emergency was proclaimed due to detection of a localized outbreak of the Beet Leaf hoppers that had to be addressed to prevent crop failure. In consultation with the Agricultural Commissioner, it was determined that the reasons for the declared emergency still exist. Government Code Section 8630 requires your Board to review the need to continue the local emergency at least once every 60 days.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board approve extending the Local Emergency due to the detection of Beet Leafhoppers within Kern County for an additional 60 days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elsa T. Martinez".

Elsa T. Martinez
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

EM-ADM_CONT Local Emergency Continuation060424

cc: County Counsel
Agricultural Commissioner