



DAN A. GATTIS
County Judge
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

March 16, 2009

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
c/o State Coordinator
Governor's Division of Emergency Management
P. O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

Dear Governor Perry;

The County of Williamson, Texas, is facing significant threats to life, health and property due to:

- Severe and prolonged drought conditions.
- The imminent threat of continued severe drought conditions.
- The inability of Williamson County to fully assess drought related damages and to formulate and promulgate a comprehensive plan for relief, mitigation and recovery from the past present and future effects of severe drought conditions.

The potential impact of this threat is:

Extraordinary economic losses to the agricultural community of Williamson County including, but not limited to hay, cattle/livestock and row crop producers and the inability or the limited ability for recovery from such losses.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capability of Williamson County to control. Pursuant to §433.001 of the Texas Government Code, I am requesting that you declare a state of emergency for Williamson County, Texas, and issue appropriate directives to deal with the emergency; including:

Provide assistance to Williamson County's Office of Emergency Management with a variety of professionals, advisors and subject matter experts that, as a task force, can perform an in-depth damage assessment, develop mitigation strategies, identify sources for individual and public financial assistance and a recovery regime. It is requested that such task force be composed of those State and Federal agencies, and other cooperating agencies that may be necessary to address past, present and future drought issues such as, but not limited to, those listed herein.

1. Decline in hay production and insufficient quality of available hay for livestock maintenance.

2. Depressed market prices of cattle, past and present sales statistics of cattle and the effect of herd reductions on recovery efforts.
3. Appropriate methods and economic means for disposal of carcasses and offal.
4. Lack of available water quantity in earthen impoundments, lack of quality water for sustainability and the impacts and costs of obtaining water from exterior sources and the environmental impact of water provision sources.
5. The long term impact on the agricultural economic losses related to higher feed supplement prices, depressed row crop productions, pasture restoration, and herd restocking. Develop financial aid solutions for the recovery process.
6. Develop strategies for drought period activities relating to forest and range management, including prescriptive burning.

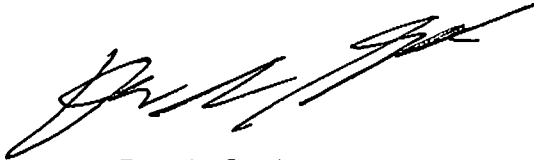
Furthermore, I am asking that successive proclamations be issued and remain in effect until the threat of agricultural economic loss, social consequences, quality of life in our rural community, livestock injury, or damage to property are contained, mitigated and restored.

A timely response to this request would be appreciated.

Questions may directed to:

Jarred Thomas
Williamson County Emergency Management Coordinator
512-943-3747

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan A. Gattis', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dan A. Gattis
Williamson County Judge