

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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March 24, 2020

Mr. John Quiroz  
Fairs and Expositions Branch Chief  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Transmittal Via E-mail: [John.Quiroz@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:John.Quiroz@cdfa.ca.gov)*

**RE: Fair Allocation Rulemaking**

Dear Mr. Quiroz,

On behalf of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, we send this letter regarding the long-awaited disbursement of Fair Allocation Funding per Assembly Bill 1499 by Assembly Member Adam Gray (Chapter 798, 2017).

Fairs and fairgrounds are an integral asset to El Dorado County. Since the State Budget eliminated \$32 million for the support of fairs in 2011-12, long-term funding solutions have been sorely needed to fill the gap. AB 1499 was a significant step forward in the long-term viability for the operations and maintenance of fairgrounds to ensure fairs and fairgrounds, particularly in rural areas, remain vibrant. Fairs serve a multitude of beneficial uses such as community events, evacuation centers during catastrophic wildfires and other emergencies, including public safety command centers.

Further, more leadership from the CDFA is needed on how these monies will be allocated to fairs, not only with respect to minimum grant awards in a given year, but also if there are minimum funding guarantees to qualifying fairs. It is incumbent that Fair Boards have budget stability and planning capability. These AB 1499 funds should primarily be used for fairs with limited sources of revenue and for general operational support, including deferred maintenance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I respectfully request that the CDFA not delay any further in distributing these much-needed funds.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Veerkamp,  
Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kathy Diaz, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Honorable Brian Dahle, California State Senate  
Honorable Frank Bigelow, California State Assembly  
Honorable Kevin Kiley, California State Assembly  
Cara Martinson, California State Association of Counties  
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California  
The Honorable Adam Gray, Member of the State Assembly  
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, Member of the State Assembly  
The Honorable Robert Rivas, Member of the State Assembly Member  
Joshua Eddy, Executive Director, California State Board of Food and Agriculture