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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Ladies and gentlemen, in just a moment we'll begin our program. The Board has a little business; we need to have a monthly board meeting. This will be a very short board meeting to start this session, and then we will proceed with our listening session.

So we have over 50 speakers registered. Yesterday we had 38 in San Luis Obispo, something less than that in Redding, something less than that in Sacramento; we've had three sessions. So we'll define the rules for you when we get that going and we'll keep it as efficient and allow everyone sufficient time hopefully, but as efficient as we can to get through the day in an orderly fashion.

With that, I'd like to call the Board meeting to order. I'd like to ask Dan Dooley to please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.)

PRESIDENT MONTNA: The State Board of Food and Agriculture is made up of 15 representatives from agriculture and the public appointed by the Governor for three-year terms, and we shall advise the Governor and the Secretary on agriculture policy. And we have monthly board meetings usually around the State of California on...
whatever the hot ag issue of the day is.

Now, it's time for roll call, but rather than have Josh Eddy, our Executive Director, call, I'd like each director to please tell folks who you are, your affiliation, and length of time on the Board, please.

Starting with Tom. We apologize, we only have one mic, so we're keeping the cost down, we don't have a budget.

BOARD MEMBER DEARDORFF: Good morning, I'm Tom Deardorff from Deardorff Family Farms. We're based out of Ventura County. We're row crops, celery, lettuce, tomato grower over in the central coast. I've been on the Board now for a year and a half.

BOARD MEMBER MEYERS: Marvin Meyers. I'm a west side grower up outside of Fresno County. We grow diversified crops, mostly almonds. I've been on the Board for a long time. I don't know how long I've been on the Board. It seems like a long time. Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER BOREN: I'm Ashley Boren. I am the Executive Director of Sustainable Conservation. We're a nonprofit environmental organization that partners with agriculture and other businesses to find solutions that make environmental and economic sense. And I am just starting my second three-year term.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDDY: Hello. I'm Josh Eddy,
the Executive Director of the State Board of Food and Agriculture.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Al Montna, a rice farmer from the University of California. It's my second term on the Board, once in the Wilson administration. I've been President of the Board since March of '05.

This gentleman, Secretary Kawamura, needs no introduction, and we'll be hearing from him in a moment.

BOARD MEMBER ROSS: Good morning. It's nice to see so many friends in the audience. I'm Karen Ross, and I'm President of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers. And I feel older than dirt because I can't remember how long I've been on the Board, but I think it's seven or eight years.

BOARD MEMBER BACCHETTI-SILVA: Hi. I'm Ann Silva. I'm a dairy farmer from Tracy, so I'm in the heart, I believe, of dairy country. And I'm finishing -- I started my fourth year on the Board. And I'm a third-generation dairy farmer. And Karen has taught us all the ropes, this whole Board, so thank you.

BOARD MEMBER DOOLEY: I'm Dan Dooley, until December 31st a water lawyer based in Visalia. I'm now the Vice-President of the University of California for Agriculture Natural Resources.

BOARD MEMBER VALPREDO: Good morning. My name is
Don Valpredo. I'm a vegetable farmer from Bakersfield, California, primarily in onions, carrots and peppers. I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy 4th of July, a great holiday for this country. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you. As part of the Board meeting, I'll welcome Secretary Kawamura's comments regarding specifically this meeting and any other departmental issues he'd like to bring up as he historically does. I'll follow with my comments, and then we'll start our ag vision session as the content of this meeting.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Do you want to do your approval of minutes first?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Oh, thank you, Mr. Secretary. Yeah, we do have a little business. We have minutes from the May 28th meeting. I'd like a motion.

BOARD MEMBER ROSS: Move to approve.


(Ayes.)

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Opposed? Unanimous. Thank you.
Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Well, good morning, everybody. It's been very exciting to be a part of the ag vision process, which is this idea that we don't have a blueprint, we don't have a plan for agriculture in the State of California that will take us not only next year, five years, but ten, twenty years out as well.

Many of you are familiar with the very good work that's being done with the San Joaquin Valley Partnership. And it was during that process over these last four, five years in the San Joaquin Valley Partnership that our Department was engaged -- and I know Holly King is sitting out here someplace -- where our Department was engaged to work with the Great Valley Center and many others to try and help create a plan for the San Joaquin Valley for agriculture. And it was at that time that we all recognized that that's interesting, a plan for San Joaquin Valley would be super because none exists, but wouldn't it also be great to have one for the State of California.

And that basically, if you will, is the roots behind where we are today.

In addition to that, the very strong roots that come from a very exciting farm bill process that just culminated two weeks ago with the signing of a farm bill that for the very first time really in history is a
California friendly farm bill. And that farm bill occurred because of a great working relationship and a coalition building of people here in the State of California across a very broad range of the issue areas, if you will, that helped to say that we really need to plot our own future.

Agriculture for many years has, for maybe several, two, three decades has had this wonderful strategy. Every year we're going to negotiate to lose less; that's been the agricultural paradigm, if you will, for the state. And I think everybody would recognize that's not a good strategy to go into the future with for yet another 20, 30 years.

And so the process here is to try and do just the opposite; let's create, understand where our natural stakeholders are, let's understand that the future of agriculture is enormously important because without a future, without a plan -- I come from Orange County, and in Orange County where our family has been growing for some 50 years, if you go back just a few more years, 1949, Orange County was the number one agriculture county in this country in terms of economic output. And in the course of my lifetime, one lifetime, you can see what it is today; there's a lot of asphalt. There's a few of us still farming down there, but that's the kind of future
you get if there's no planning, if there's no concept for
what you want to do in terms of securing the amazing
resource that agriculture is. It is a national security
component, it's a treasured resource, if you will, but do
we know that? And so this process is going to be very
important.

I just want to thank all of you for being here
today, both as listeners and especially those of you who
are speakers as well. And our thoughts are going to be
around how can we converge all of our resources in this
state towards a vision of what agriculture can be.

Parallel efforts, parallel thoughts about what
agriculture might be are all nice and good, but parallel
lines never meet; and if we don't converge this enormous
stakeholder base that might be represented in this room
today, we'll always be out there kind of moving forward
but not necessarily moving forward together.

So thank you for being here. It's been an
exiting process. I think there's a lot of different ways
to look at agriculture. That's natural because
agriculture is a very dynamic part of what our society is.

So with that, I'm going to hand this back to
President Montna.

And what I'd also like to do, there's a few
guests I'd like to thank right now that are here that are

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both special guests, but most also just leaders in agriculture. So I know Gary Kunkel is here, ag commissioner from Tulare County; Patricia Stever, Executive Director Tulare County Farm Bureau; Diana Westmoreland-Pedroza, I think you're here, I saw a little while ago, she's the Executive Director of Merced County Farm Bureau; Marilyn Kinoshita is the Deputy Ag Commissioner from Tulare County; Susanna Smith, she's the Office of Assemblymember Bill Maze; we have Ryan Jacobson, who's the Executive Director of the Fresno County Farm Bureau; Cathi Boze, Ag Commissioner of Mariposa County. Cathi, I don't know, did I see you yet? I see Robert Jones is here, Deputy Secretary for the labor agency. There's a special thanks to Patricia Stever for hosting and really helping us organize this. I know Ed Needham is Tulare Farm Bureau President; I know Allan Ishida is up here, elected official; and Mike is also here, I'm sorry on that. Shirley Batchman from Citrus Mutual. We have Tom Birmingham from Westlands Water District; Mark Davis is a USDA rep that's here; and Karri Hammerstrom, the second Vice-President for California Women in Ag is here. I know I've missed many, I know I missed some. So my apologies if I did miss you. But I just appreciate your leadership and all of the rest of you that are here. So now I'm going to hand -- Dave is also here,
Dave King is also here from -- you know, sometimes the traveling on the road gets to your head and, Tim, please forgive me. Ag Commissioner as well.

So I'm going to give this back to Al. Here you go.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. You can have the mic as long as you wish. You're the man.

Wow, it's really great to fill a room up for agriculture in this state. You know, we've held hearings all over this state on every hot-button issue that's brought to us by agriculture. We've never filled a room up like this. So thank you all for taking your time to be part of ag's vision through 2030.

The Secretary directed the Board to start this process in March of this year through the Governor. The Governor has great interest in this also. He loves agriculture. And it's going to be your time, agriculture's time and the public's time. And when I say agriculture, that's all segments of agriculture. Time to express your view and have your input on the vision of this industry through 2030.

Since I have two daughters that are intimately involved in our business, our family business, it's very interesting to me to carry that business on another -- through that time, hopefully another 50 years at a
minimum.

So it's all in our best interest to put a plan together. This plan is not going to gather dust on a shelf and it's going to be hopefully implemented and put into practice in this state while we still have this great Governor to serve agriculture.

So with that, again, I want to thank you all. We have facilitators here. We have Carolyn Penny from UC is going to lead our facilitation. And Carolyn, she's also here -- with Richard Friant over here who helped us in Redding -- to lead the facilitation, to lay the rules out for you and to keep this as efficient a process as possible.

Again, thank you all for coming. We really appreciate your taking the time to help us create this document.

Carolyn.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Good morning, everybody. I'm Carolyn Penny, and I'm from UC Davis Common Ground Center for Cooperative Solutions. I have the pleasure of working with everyone in the room today to help the process work as smoothly as possible. So I'm going to tell you a few things about how it will work, and I look forward to working with everybody in the room.

So the purpose of this, today's conversation, is
to talk about the vision of California agriculture looking out to the year 2030. So there are four questions to guide your comments. The first is what's your vision for California agriculture by 2030? I encourage you to think creatively; audacious ideas are fine. What will be the biggest challenge in achieving that vision by 2030? How has the public perception changed? And what is a must-have?

Each speaker will have up to five minutes. We have a podium here with a microphone. If you use less than five minutes, that is just fine. What we do is ask is if you finish before five minutes, you can't sell the remaining time to anyone else in the room, no auctions out in the hall. So if you finish in less than five minutes, that's just fine, and you can go ahead and sit.

If you give your comments and you have other appointments, other things you need to do to leave the room, you can feel free to do that; no one will be insulted. And we welcome you to stay throughout the listening session.

I have speakers by number. So I will try to call out the number and the speaker's name. Forgive me in advance if I don't get your name correct. I will give it the best shot I know. There are times when we will skip over a number because I've gotten some kind of word that
that person isn't available at that moment, so be ready a
couple numbers out ahead of your number.

Because we have a number of folks participating
today, which is wonderful, as the speaker's number in
front of you is called and that speaker is wrapping up
their comments, feel free to go ahead and make your way to
the microphone, and that will help us stay on time.

THE TRANSLATOR: The translation here is not
working. None of the translation gear is working. Maybe
it's a different channel or something.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Our translator is standing
outside the door, which is why you see me looking over my
shoulder.

He's going to check on that. Thank you for
bringing that to our attention.

If anyone at the microphone wants the help of the
translator, all you need to do is let us know. And let me
ask, because my -- I'm not able to translate that well, is
somebody that's bilingual able to say that people can
request the translator when they're at the microphone?

(Whereupon an unidentified speaker spoke to the
audience in Spanish.)

FACILITATOR PENNY: Thank you.

So here's a little bit more about how this is
going to work. The session is videotaped, there's a
camera, and it will be transcribed. Your comments are
going to be available on the website for CDFA, just for
you to know.

There's a couple of foundations that have made
funding available for this session, including the
Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation and the Colombia
Foundation.

So we have some ground rules: That everyone's
going to treat everyone else with respect, everyone will
strive to be complete and concise. You will have up to
five minutes. I may intervene, rarely and briefly, to
help you give your comments, to ask a clarifying question,
but it will be rare and it will be brief. Most of the
time is yours.

We ask you to turn cell phones and pagers off or
to vibrate. So now is a great time to do that if you
haven't already done so.

You can pass if your points have been made by
another speaker. You can feel free to pass and note that
your comments have already been made.

If you have questions for the panel, the panel's
job today is to listen. So if you have questions for the
panel, we'll make note of them, and if there's time left
at the end of the session, come back to those.

You can also give written input, written input
today and afterwards on the website, which is agvision@cdfa.ca.gov.

Now, I'm about to make my request to the panel for their job. So the job of the panel is to listen. There's a quote that listening, not imitation, may be the sincerest form of flattery. So the panel's job today is to listen to your comments. The panel may have clarifying questions for a speaker, and I'll try to pause very briefly after a speaker to give the panel a chance if they have any clarifying questions to the speaker. And I get permission to intervene, to keep us on track and on time as necessary.

So let me first ask the panel and then I will ask all of you if you can agree to this approach to today's meeting.

So, panel, are you okay with this approach? And the rest of you, are you okay with this approach to today's meeting?

All right. With that, we're going to get going. So I will call the first speaker. So I have speaker 1, Richard Matoian.

MR. MATOIAN: Good morning. I have the dubious honor of being the first stop. I saw the wonderful agriculture products that you had in the front. I brought some of our wonderful pistachios. I believe they're in
front of you at your spots. So please enjoy them.

They're from one of our California processors.

My name is Richard Matoian. I'm the Executive Director of the Western Pistachio Association, headquartered in Fresno. The WPA is a trade association that came together after the demise in 2007 of the marketing order for pistachios, which was called the California Pistachio Commission. As a voluntary organization, the Western Pistachio Association is not bound by the restrictions of a state or federal marketing order, therefore we can lobby, we have a political action committee; and that truly is our focus, to work on behalf of our member growers on legislative and regulatory issues and regulatory issues that affect them.

The Western Pistachio Association has members from 16 states. The California pistachio industry alone has 177,000 acres planted in the ground with a crop value of $557 million. I will note that fiscal year 2003-2004, exports represented only about 33 percent of our total shipments. In this current fiscal year, 2007-2008, with trends continuing in the manner in which they are continuing, our export should reach somewhere around 70 percent of our total shipment; so a dramatic increase in about a four-year period of time. This large amount of exports has certainly helped to provide a positive trade
You've asked us as stakeholders to provide our view and comments regarding the California vision by 2030, the biggest challenge in achieving that vision, and must-haves in that ag vision. Let me tell you and present to you some comments regarding that ag vision.

Unfortunately, many of our issues today are not coming out of the fields but out of the halls of the state and federal legislature and also out of our regulatory bodies and in some cases the courts. We have solved the many production issues through focused research and targeted education to our growers. We are confident that this research will continue to serve us in the future. But it's the manmade legislative and regulatory issues that will continue to put our industry and ag in a difficult position.

Among these are unfair trade activities by our trade competitors, pesticide use and availability issues, country of origin labeling or the lack thereof, and multilateral and bilateral trade agreements. And recently the water issue has put our -- into question our capability to produce into the future.

In 1965 there were only 200 acres of commercial pistachios in the State of California. Today we have in excess of 177,000 acres. We're rightfully proud of this
accomplishment. And in recent years growers in the State of California have reaped the reward of our hard work and dedication. It's brought additional jobs, money into the economy, and as I said previously, assisting in a positive trade balance.

Our challenges as a partner with nature are many, but with perseverance, we have not only survived but we've flourished. We have pistachio growers in some areas of the state that rely solely upon either the state water project or the central water -- Central Valley Project for their sole source of water. They do not have wells in the ground because of the poor water quality if they were to have such wells.

Certainly through the drought, but also through past and recent court rulings, it has cost many of our growers in the hundreds if not millions of dollars to purchase additional water to water their permanent crops. One of our growers told us that in 2006 he had spent $215,000 to purchase water and in this year he will spend $900,000

Real quickly regarding the farm bill, as was said by the Secretary, there's plenty of opportunities for California agriculture; these block grants I think are going to be beneficial to us. In 2007 there was a particular program that was funded, detection and
eradication tools for exotic pest fruit flies. This was a broad multi-commodity approach, and we believe that when future funds are available, these kinds of funding approaches should be examined. Specific programs are good to fund, but broad approaches that can affect multiple commodities would be very, very beneficial to us.

Thank you for consideration of my comments. And as always, we look forward to working with the State Board of Food and Ag and CDFA in solving the problems. Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Thank you.

As a second speaker, Sandy Beals is coming to the microphone.

I'll note something that I neglected to note before. Kyle over here is our timekeeper. He's got a sign he will hold up when you've got one minute remaining. Another sign he'll hold up when the five minutes is up. So when you see that lovely time sign, go ahead and wrap up your thoughts so we can share the time as much as possible. Thank you very much.

Sandy.

MS. BEALS: Thanks. Good morning. I'm Sandy Beals, Executive Director for Food Link for Tulare County. Food Link is the food bank that serves the Tulare County
Our vision for the year 2030 is that no child wonders if there will be dinner tonight; no child falls asleep at his school desk because he hasn't had breakfast; no child would dread weekends because there won't be any lunch; no child is overweight because the only food available is cheap, high calorie and low nutrient; no child will consider fresh fruit an occasional luxury; no child will drink soda instead of milk because it's less expensive and more accessible; no child will go through summer without a healthy lunch because school is out; no child goes hungry.

We hope for a year 2030 in which everyone will be able to access adequate and nutritious food, including all the fruits and vegetables necessary for good health. Of course this produce will be California grown. This seems to be a very simple vision, but the challenges to making it a reality are great.

At the food bank we're seeing more and more families who haven't had to rely on us before. At the same time, food banks have entered a crisis stage with a sharp loss in the supply of donated food and our own increased costs of food and trucking. Commodity foods supplied to us by USDA have hit a low point with a 60 percent decline since 2002. The new farm bill will be
helpful with its increased allocation of commodities, but it's not enough to reach even the 2002 levels, and it's definitely not enough to adequately meet the increasing numbers of people in need.

In 2007 our San Joaquin Valley experienced a freeze that destroyed our citrus and other crops. This instantly resulted in widespread unemployment for many thousands of workers. In response, the Governor's office quickly appropriated emergency funds to make sure these workers did not go hungry. The economic situation that California faces today is a different type of disaster, but this disaster also requires a quick response.

What must we have? We're very involved with the California Association of Food Banks' Farm to Family Program. We purchased over two million pounds of fresh produce over the last two years at very, very reduced cost. It is imperative that this program flourish and grow.

Our local ag industry must also flourish. The freeze of 2007 was a startling reminder of what happens to our entire economy when ag suffers. Government funded programs such as food stamps, school breakfast and lunch, WIC, senior meals and summer food must be supported and maintained. These programs help families stay strong and healthy through economic downtimes. The state should
institute a state funded food purchase program to help
food banks provide enough healthy food to people in need.
Thank you for your time and your interest.
FACILITATOR PENNY: Speaker 3, Michael Darnell.
He's already at the microphone.
MR. DARNELL: Good morning, Secretary Kawamura,
President Montna, and Board Members. My name is Mike
Darnell. I'm the California Policy Director of the
American Farmland Trust. AFT is a national nonprofit
organization working to conserve and protect the best
farmland and help agriculture make a positive contribution
of environmental quality.
We applaud the Board of Food and Agriculture and
CDFA for undertaking this landmark visioning process. We
hope and trust that this will lead to measurable
objectives, a specific action agenda, and the assignment
of responsibilities to public and private sector
institutions for achieving the desired outcomes.
Today I want to focus on one thing that the
vision should incorporate, the preservation of
California's irreplaceable farmland, especially here in
the central valley, which accounts for more than half of
the state's total agricultural output. There's nothing
more fundamental to the sustainability of California
agriculture than the actual land itself. It is impossible
to envision a bright future for California agriculture without adequate farmland.

I grew up in northern San Joaquin County and I've personally seen the effects of growth on farmland in the central valley. As I was growing up, the area surrounding my home was comprised of orchards, dairies, alfalfa fields and other seasonal crops. The land around the home I grew up in now features large lot residential homes and small agricultural fields full of weeds and pests.

Housing developments, commercial sprawl and rural ranchettes are steadily and incrementally eating away at the valley's agricultural base. Recent AFT studies have documented the cumulative impacts. In the valley of leading agricultural counties, more than 70 percent of the land being developed is in prime, unique or of statewide importance. Development is consuming this highly productive land in a very inefficient manner, in fact, it is accommodating only eight people for every acre that it consumes.

In addition to the loss of land, there is increasing conflict between agriculture and urban development, including land price inflation, competition for water, and more demands for regulation of agriculture properties. We cannot continue to tolerate this inefficient use of farmland and still expect agriculture
to remain economically healthy. Instead, a statewide vision and plan for agriculture must help assure that the best farmland remains available for agriculture and that urban development doesn't convert any more land than is truly necessary to accommodate our expanding population and continued economic growth that we all well desire. This endeavor will not only maximize the options for California agriculture producers and the industry as a whole, but will promote more efficient development to help achieve the State's climate goals, improve environmental quality, and contribute to the fiscal viability of cities, counties, and the state by minimizing public service costs.

American Farmland Trust therefore proposes that the California ag vision include a quantifiable goal of reducing the conversion of prime, unique and statewide important farmland to an average of not more than one acre for 20 new residents in every county that has significant agricultural production. By 2030, this would save over 500,000 acres of land statewide compared with the continuation of current trends.

Ideally I would like to elaborate on the kind of specific actions and responsibilities that could be adopted to implement this goal, however, due to time constraints, let us suffice it to say that AFT has given
this vision a great deal of thought and will provide
further ideas for consideration as the process goes
forward.

Thank you for your attention and your commitment
to a bright future for California agriculture.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 3.5,
which is Barry Bedwell, and then we'll go to speaker 4,
Diana Westmoreland.

MR. BEDWELL: No, no, let Diana go first.

MS. WESTMORELAND-PEDROZO: What a gentleman you
are; go ahead.

MR. BEDWELL: No, please, after you.

MS. WESTMORELAND-PEDROZO: Good morning,
Secretary Kawamura and Board Members. Merced County Farm
Bureau has been calling for a plan for agriculture for
many years now and is pleased to have the opportunity to
have an impact on that plan with CDFA. Thank you for the
opportunity to paint our picture, but also to have an
impact on reframing the discussion on a plan for
agriculture for future generations the vision.

Agriculture is the foundation of our national
security policy, and California leads the nation in
agricultural production. We have protected our greatest
asset, the ability to feed ourselves. The fertile
valleys, hills, forest and river supply the food, fiber,
nursery and forest products for California and the world. Affordable, efficient water storage and conveyance systems flow with water for agriculture, manufacturing, environmental and urban needs. Our diverse and abundant crops and products allow us to compete globally in the world marketplace secure in knowing we will not be relying on foreign nations to supply our food.

Urban farms and gardens are an important part of the fabric of our communities. The rural farms and bases are supported by a legislature and governmental agencies that understand, respect, and safeguard our working landscapes.

Communities that supply jobs to local residents are flourishing with healthy families and manufacturing and industry that supports the ag-based economy with the latest innovative technology. Value-added ag products are abundant, adding strength to the overall economic picture for California. California has led the way the last two decades with innovative and cutting-edge technology and the alternative energy and water conservation industries. Developing and manufacturing the technology has opened new paths for employment and resource management. The San Joaquin Valley farms and ranches have led the way with solar energy and technology uses.

So what will be the biggest challenge? And I say
this to every one of you in the room, bringing agriculture
together to speak as a united voice, changing our growth
patterns for urban development, and inventory of land must
be sustainable and affordable to produce our crops and
commodities, a regulatory environment that is based on an
understanding of the impacts and costs of rules and
regulations for the men and women who produce the over 350
uniquely California products, finding a solution to the
litigation tactics that have been the norm for decades in
regards to water, land use and regulations. Positive
action, not reaction, can bring about solutions without
wasting huge amounts of money in the court system.

In 2030 how has the public perception changed?
Beginning the summer of 2008, agriculture
organizations, commodity groups and others came together
contributing ten percent of their existing marketing and
advertising budgets to bring our message to the public.
Because the campaign was successful with this united
effort, the public understood the strategic importance of
a domestic food supply to our national security. The
public supports the farming communities. They have
demanded that our elected officials take action to
preserve and protect the integrity of the working farms
and ranches with policies in place that safeguard our
natural resources, including the men and women who work
the land. Recognizing that land is a finite resource, the
cities have incorporated strong growth policies that have
kept development within the urban boundaries allowing city
residents access to fresh, local produce and products from
neighboring farms, ranches and businesses. Building up,
in-fill development and a jobs-housing balance are few of
the many policies put in place in 2008 to value the many
benefits from a vibrant and productive ag industry.

Ag has been a leading example with technology for
alternative energy solutions. These advancements have
brought a real and measurable improvement in the lives of
all Californians. Support and respect for these
innovators is widespread.

What's the must-have? Immediate action to
address the water crisis we currently face because of
decades of inaction, increased water storage and an
efficient conveyance system to move water throughout the
state to meet the needs of all Californians. Recognizing
that the top priority is producing a safe, domestic food
supply, the latest water conservation and energy
technology is incorporated on the farms, ranches,
businesses, homes and governmental agencies, produced by
us, required by us, home grown. Mitigation for ag land
conversion is a requirement at a minimum of four to one.
APHIS has been moved back to USDA.
Review an evaluation of existing laws and regulations that impact the production of our food supply.

What is the goal? How is it being accomplished? Are they effective? Are they cost prohibiting? Are they leading to the outsourcing of our food supply? These and many more questions need to be addressed before we move forward.

We are overburdened with regulations at all levels of government that are not based on peer-reviewed science or any acknowledgement of the industry or any knowledge of the industry they're regulating. Common sense and coordination is sorely lacking today and cannot continue if the future of agriculture is to remain viable and economically feasible to the producers and processors in this room.

Thank you. Excuse me for going over my time.

BOARD MEMBER VALPREDO: Mr. President, would you make sure that each of the speakers identifies themselves.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Yes.

Could the speakers please identify yourselves slowly. I'm having a hard time taking some notes. I would appreciate it. And I can't quite see your name tags.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Although I will give your try to give your name as you come up, if you would start
your comments by giving your name and the organization
you're with, if any.

So this is Barry Bedwell.

MR. BEDWELL: Okay. Thank you. Good morning. I am Barry Bedwell, and I'm president of the California
Grape and Tree Fruit League. The League is a voluntary
public policy organization that represents the approximate
two-billion-dollar table grape and deciduous tree fruit
communities in California.

First, I'd like to thank the California
Department of Food and Agriculture, particularly Secretary
Kawamura, along with the State Board of Food and
Agriculture as headed by Al Montna for conducting these
listening sessions today. I think they're very valuable.

In regard to today's session, our members fully
support the efforts of CDFA to develop a vision for a more
productive, competitive and innovative agricultural sector
by 2030, and we agree that that should be our goal.

As a representative of production agriculture, I
must confess that while there are days when I'm encouraged
by the progress our growers and shippers make in producing
healthy and nutritious fruits, many times I find myself
depressed about the prospects of true long-term
sustainability.

In spite of the fact that California agriculture
continually and seemingly sets records for gross revenue each year, the reality is that the profitability continues to be pressured due to a ever-increasing list of factors. But most importantly, I'm concerned over the attitudes over a majority of California of what appears to be a growing lack of concern over the importance of maintaining a domestic food supply.

Having been involved with production agriculture for over three decades, I realize that what I'm saying is nothing new. In fact, I can hear the comments, particularly from Sacramento, that continually say, well, here they go again, always complaining about being put out of business, but they're always around, they never go away. It reminds me of a quote I recently read in the newspaper, and I want to make this very clear that this isn't my quote, but it came from a farmer of all people who said that, you know why puppies are different than farmers? When the puppy grows up, it quits whining.

Now, I accept the fact that our credibility is constantly being questioned due to the exceptional resiliency of all the individuals involved with production agriculture, however, that does not change the reality of the current situation whereby large numbers of Californians are demanding that their agendas are fulfilled without regard to the impact or unintended
consequences and agriculture, whether it involves the
denial of eradication efforts for invasive pests, add in
regulations to impact air quality, or moving to oversee
irrigated lands is just a few examples. California
residents are sending the message that outsourcing of
their food supply is an acceptable alternative.

So how do we achieve our goal for a vision for
2030 knowing that much like the recent decision by judges
that ruled that an emergency cannot be declared until
actual damages occur and not prior, do we have to wait
till the implementation of additional regulations and
costs, until that point we actually go out of business?
Can we really educate Californians to the benefits of a
domestic food supply when it comes to food safety as well
as food security issues?

There is no question that when you truly
contemplate the risk, consumers would most likely think
twice before totally importing our food supply, however,
and in the final analysis, the answer to true
sustainability for production agriculture will most likely
resolve around our ability to align ourselves with those
same seemingly indifferent individuals when it comes to
the future of agriculture and their ambitions, not ours.
The fact that Californians view themselves as
environmentally as well as economically progressive, and
production agriculture view themselves as basic protectors of environment, yet such views are not held by the respective parties of each other, the question then shifts as to how to recognize the contributions of agriculture to the environment and social causes which parallel the desire of Californians and in turn contribute to true sustainability. In other words, we need to find a means of providing recognition to production agriculture for such contributions as carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat and maintaining open space, both in perception and in economic value.

In summary, if you're going to add additional regulatory costs and burdens to meet the environmental goals, then we need to provide tax incentives and credits that acknowledge the benefits of agriculture and mitigate the impact of added cost to allow California agriculture to compete on a worldwide basis. This concept in its way is nothing new and it's a variation and a means of the general fund concept, which I believe unfortunately is being more narrowly defined and unfortunately not applying as it should to agriculture.

So rather than exempt agriculture from additional regulations, which is generally viewed as unacceptable, a system needs to be created whereby credit would be given where credit is due. So therefore, we meet the three main
goals of agricultural sustainability, environmentally
friendly, socially responsible and economically viable.

So in the final analysis and in conclusion, I
would say that part of this effort must be a clear
articulation of a statewide farm policy similar to the
federal farm bill, which communicates the value for all
Californians. The creation of a state farm bill would
serve as a vehicle not only to identify on a multi-year
basis those areas of credit and investment in
agriculture's competitiveness, but also serve as a
continual educational tool and reminder for members of
California's Assembly and Senate of the many positives
that food production provides for all the state's
citizens.

So the future of California can and should be
bright given the focus on healthy and nutritious food, but
we need to realize that given the current trends, there
needs to be a recognition, that we need a means to assist
in obtaining this long-term sustainability; without that,
we put at risk all of these wonderful gifts of soil,
water, and climate that make California the best place in
the world.

Thank you again for conducting this listening
session and allowing us the opportunity to participate.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you, Barry.
FACILITATOR PENNY: Okay. Next up we have speaker 5, Jean Okuye.


THE TRANSLATOR: Could you slow down for the translation, please?

MS. OKUYE: I am representing Valley Land Alliance. I'd like to give you a little background from where I come. In 1980, my husband, in his family there was a death, and that brought us to a Japanese-American community in Livingston in Merced County. I used to teach piano, we had a new home in Montecito, Santa Barbara. And I moved to a house that hadn't been painted for 60 years and had 15 fuses in it, which we blew 300 in one year. It was a real experience.

And I don't run the farming as our 12 and 14 year old did, my husband had Parkinson's, but we all did it as a family, we put a lot of blood, sweat and tears; and that's why I'm here today, because I really do believe we need to save this farmland.

I'm thankful to the state and the Central Valley Farmland Trust. I just put my land in an easement. I have 80 acres in almonds. We have two home sites on it. And I'm able to watch my fifth generation, the fifth
generation, my grandchildren grow up on this farm.
I am now the President of Valley Land Alliance.
This is a nonprofit 501c3. We started two years ago with
a mission to educate and build alliances to protect our
California central valley farmland. Besides starting the
Valley Land Alliance, I got involved with talking to the
board of supervisors and planning commission, and I'm on
the Advisory Committee for the City of Livingston. And
I'm concerned about this urban sprawl and saving farmland.
I'm also a Farm Board member in Merced County. So thank
you for this opportunity.

Our vision, California must be proactive to save
its farmland. This includes long-term planning beyond the
terms of decision-makers such as city councilpersons,
county boards of supervisors, county and city planning
commissioners, state assemblymen, and senators and federal
decision-makers. Statewide protection of agriculture must
be a priority. To guarantee food and fiber production we
must have water, land, and adequate clean air protection
to grow our crops. We also must have continuous
monitoring to detect the detrimental intrusive pests which
threaten our food productivity, to avoid the use of harsh
chemical applications.

To accomplish this our vision is to have
statewide policy which will award development within
present spheres of influences, will support sustainability and renewable energy, will guarantee that ground and surface water will be available at affordable prices for designated zoned farmland, will encourage good air quality through designing of our communities and transportation systems, and will provide means to monitor for pests which have the potential of destroying our crops.

History has shown us what can happen if we do not protect our habitat; and that was brought up by Mr. Kawamura, how land has been paved over in southern California and other places. We must preserve our habitat, which is the land, water and adequate air and ability to produce food. Not only our crops may be in peril, but our society as well. Truly, the central valley is a state, no, a national treasure. Our finite resources must be protected.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up speaker 6, we have Shirley Batchmen. And after Shirley will be speaker 7, Ted Batkin.

MS. BATCHMEN: Good morning, Mr. Secretary, President Montna, and Board Members. I am Shirley Batchmen with California Citrus Mutual. We work on behalf of the state citrus growers, and we are seeing that we are coming to a critical juncture for this industry and that...
the path chosen by this administration and the next will
determine the future of this agricultural land in this
state.

These listening sessions are focusing on the
future for the next 20 or 30 years. My comments are going
to focus on the next 5 to 10 because I will tell you,
long-term planning is going to become moot if we don't
have some short-term visions and an action plan to support
it.

Yesterday I read a quote, which I think is very
appropriate for today. And it said, public policy
directly or indirectly affects drivers that are key to the
growth and development of California agriculture. No
truer words are spoken in today's environment. This
administration's environmental focus has now become the
state's number one driver of public policy, and it is
having a significant impact on the profitability of the
industry and the survival and the potential survival of
this industry as we know it today. It can be described as
a death by a thousands cuts, a thousand regulations. One
regulation, one cut, you don't die; but the cumulative
impact will ultimately cause your death.

And let me be very clear to everyone on the Board
and in this room, production agriculture is not opposed to
environmental regulations; we understand good stewardship
provides societal benefits for all of us. Where our angst comes and our concerns is that this administration's environmental policy is not balanced nor does it have a social economic benefit component. Fast track compliance at any cost is the administration's environmental gold standard. The cumulative impact of these regulations is driving producers out of business or off shore making the citizens of this state and this nation more dependent on foreign suppliers for food and fiber.

Let me just offer you a few specific examples of how these regulations are impacting us closer to home. Agricultural land in the San Joaquin Valley is being bulldozed and transitioned to development at an alarming rate. The California cotton industry this year planted 300,000 acres of cotton. Sounds like a lot. In the year 2000 they had one million plus acres.

The California citrus industry currently has a regulatory, and I want to emphasize, regulatory cost of $311 per acre greater than our counterparts in Texas. As we spoke, thousands of acres in Ventura County is being targeted for retirement due to an environmental decision made by this administration. Take that next year, 2009, in the San Joaquin Valley, what is happening to Ventura comes to the San Joaquin Valley, as thousands of acres of ag land will be put out of production to meet the VOC
reduction requirement mandated by the Department of Pesticide Regulation. And I want to speak specifically to that for a minute from my city.

On the target list to be eliminated is a plant growth regulator, which impacts our ability to manage crop maturity to meet market timing. When that is removed from the list, we do not have a replacement material, it is gone. Also in DPR's target list are oils. If they are lost, it will interrupt our IPM programs and will impact organic farming.

Let's move on to the State Air Resources Board. Their current development of their diesel truck regulation and farming equipment regulation is going to cost agriculture billions of dollars, as they are mandated to buy 2010 trucks and replace all of their farm equipment. The agency itself has admitted or acknowledged that this is the largest regulation ever undertaken by that agency.

OEHHA, California's Office of Health Hazard Assessment, is currently initiating a process that if implemented as drafted will require a prop 65 warning be placed on all citrus sold in a grocery store advising customers that eating citrus is hazardous to their health.

Lastly, and then I'll wrap up, I want to talk about water. I'm not going to talk about the overreaching issue that you're going to hear a lot about today, I just
want to give you an example of another fee. In 2002 a citrus packing house in Tulare County paid $400 for a waste water discharge permit. In 2007, that same permit was $4700. Let me assure you nothing changed; there were not any violations to warrant a $4300 increase. It is just another example of the cost, the ever-increasing cost of doing business in this state.

What I have outlaid for you is a brief overview of the challenges that the state's environmental policy is placing on agriculture. These are today's issues, not tomorrow, and how we deal with them will dictate our future.

From our perspective the Department needs to be more effective in advocating for the industry, and failure to do so, we will not need to talk about the environment.

And let me just leave you with one last thought. The legacy of the Schwarzenegger administration will be the retirement of prime agricultural land and the elimination of agriculture as a prime economic driver in the State of California if this is not addressed.

Thank you, and thank you for the time.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 7, Ted Batkin. And then after Ted will be speaker 8, Ed Needham.

MR. BATKIN: Thank you very much to Secretary
Kawamura and Chairman Montna. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak before this Board. This is, you've heard me before on invasive pests and diseases. My name is Ted Batkin. I'm the President of the California Citrus Research Board and the Chairman of the California Invasive Pest Coalition, which is made up of the agriculture producing trade associations and commodity boards in California.

And I just want to open with a quick quote, and that is that California agriculture will cease to exist due to excessive government regulations, lack of water, and lack of transportation. And some of you have heard me say this before, that quote is written in -- excuse me, 1898, and it was a paraphrase of a conversation in the book, "The Octopus," by Frank Norris, and was talking about growing feed here in Tulare County.

My great-grandfather happened to be part of the wheat growing activities here in Tulare County during that time, so I've maintained that thought in my mind for my entire life.

The reality is that we always survive these things, we will survive everything that is thrown at us; but the question is how will we look. And that's what my comments today are going to be put towards, is how will we look in 2030 or how will we look in 2050 or in the year
As we move forward in time, there are several challenges. You're going to hear from a lot of people about a lot of different challenges, but I'm going to keep my comments focused on a couple of areas.

First, primarily, is one I've spoken with you before about and will continue to speak about until I go into the box, and that is invasive pests. The invasive pest problem will continuously plague the State of California and challenge our agriculture production as well as our environment, whether it be homeowners or the forest or the entire environment are threatened by invasive species.

The primary focus that needs to be continuously placed in any vision, whether it be the vision for this year, for five years from now or twenty-five years from now, is an invasive pest must be approached with first exclusion, and then followed, when that is breached by early detection, the ability to find them when they breach exclusion matters and then finally with rapid response. These are the three critical elements that must be included in any type of a strategy or vision that is going to carry us through one, five, ten, or a hundred years.

The second area I'm just going to briefly touch on, and I will add these comments in written comments to you all, is that we must maintain a strong relationship
between the agriculture industry and the academic and research institutions throughout California and the United States and the world. Our future depends upon being able to find the next important crop, the next solution to an invasive pest, the next solution to a disease. And that's where I see our vision needing to be strengthened as we move forward into the next 25 years.

I'm going to touch just slightly on what is our vision for citrus, what do we want the citrus industry to look like in 25 years. First off, we want to be here. And if we follow the tracks that invasive pests have caused in Florida, where they may not be here in five years due to the citrus greening and the Asian Citrus Psyllid, they're probably going to be depart, the entire state, that's 800,000 acres lost in the State of Florida within the next five years due to citrus greening.

Last week the Asian Citrus Psyllid was discovered in Tijuana, and we know that they didn't read the signs that we put up at the border, so they came across the border into San Diego County. And we are faced now with the same threats that Florida's faced. So a continuous approach to invasives and strengthening these activities.

Will the citrus industry be here in 25 years? I sure hope so, I'm planning on it. And will it be here in a hundred years? You bet.
So I just want to add one additional comment.

You've heard all about water, and I won't talk about that, everybody else will, but I want to talk about the concept of family farming, because we are no longer an industry of family farming, but we need to consider ourselves a farm family. We have to look at the entire complex of agriculture in the State of California as a family as we deal with the public and deal with public outreach and changing the attitudes amongst the public.

And in closing, I just want to make one quote about strategic planning that is a mantra that we follow in our business, and that comes from Dwight David Eisenhower as he was preparing for D Day, and that is that strategic plans are worthless, but strategic planning is absolutely essential. It is important to continuously think strategically in all the areas and actions as we move forward in time, not just over one day, one week, one month, ten years or twenty-five years, that we continuously update strategy plans and strategic thinking on a continuous basis.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 8, Ed Needham. After Ed will be speaker 11, Jennifer Hernandez.

MR. NEEDHAM: Good morning, Mr. Secretary and Board Members. I'd like to thank you for taking the time
proactively to address the future of agriculture by coming here today and asking for our input. It's seldom that a proactive approach is taken to address long-term issues, usually being reactive. I applaud you for coming here. Thank you very much.

My name is Ed Needham. I live in Visalia, California, and I farm citrus and pomegranates in the central valley. I'm also general manager of Synagro Technologies and oversee all composting operations in California, and I also serve as President of the Tulare County Farm Bureau. I'm also a Director on the Kern County Farm Bureau. I currently hold a PCA and PCL license, and I've been farming for over 25 years. And thank you again for inviting me to appear.

At first glance this problem was easy if you applied my mindset at the beginning of each year, next year will be a little better. You know, I've been saying this to myself for 25 years; and I'm still here, so if we do the math, I think everything's solved. Problem is it's not that easy, and I wish it was; you know, being an eternal optimist would solve our problems, but it won't. Identifying where California agriculture will be in 2030 is a unique challenge. In my remarks I'd like to discuss just a few of the many critical, important challenges that exist in attaining an ideal 2030 vision for California.
agriculture.

What agriculture will need is not any different than what our needs are today. Our needs have remained relatively the same for decades. First and foremost, a complete agricultural infrastructure that will allow for agriculture to exist and survive in a sustainable manner. Infrastructure will allow -- our sustainability must include a fair return on investment that is competitive with other applications of capital resources, i.e., other forms of investment. It will not be sufficient to compete only with agriculture enterprises in other states and countries. Again, agriculture will need to be profitable enough to attract capital and to lure new generations to the industry. In order to achieve this, California needs a regulatory framework that allows for producers to be competitive.

We need better understanding by and support of the public and our elected appointed officials. There is currently a huge disconnect between food production and the consumers who depend on it. We will need to have a sustained outreach and reconnection effort with the public and decision makers.

Agriculture's basic needs for sustainability and a successful future are a reliable water supply and investment and implementation of sufficient conveyance and

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storage, reliable rural crime prevention funds and programs supported unilaterally through all 58 counties in California, expand funding, support, and integration of existing rural crime prevention task force efforts to Central Valley's Action Network, and the central valley ag investigation units need to be fully utilized and expanded throughout statewide effort.

Enacting a failsafe food safety regulatory framework that assures consumers' confidence and establishes a consistent science-based industry initiated process for greater food safety protection. Strong interaction between state agencies and county governments to streamline regulatory process, a renewed and enhanced effort to help farmers, ranchers, and dairy producers streamline permitting requirements and environmental compliance between air, water and land.

Flexibility must be adapted into the process at the local level of government to help producers comply with the myriad of overlapping and some even contradictory rules and regulations that are ever being rewritten, modified, updated or reauthorized. A reliable labor supply, both management and field labor. This must be a broad bipartisan process that engages our state and federal law makers to champion this effort.

Reliable and affordable fuel supplies. Reliable
and affordable production inputs. Efficient transportation systems and port facilities to facilitate export of our product. Land use policies that value the production of agriculture land and rangeland. This will require that the state and county governments will work together to help develop a more consistent framework for protecting California farmland in the state.

The future public perception of agriculture will depend on whether or not the industry continues to deliver abundant, high-quality and safe supplies of agricultural products. Consumers today are largely disconnected with the struggles of American agriculture or the impacts that urban encroachment, depleted water supplies and land availability have on agriculture. Even though we continue to be most efficient and resourceful cultivators of the earth, this only further disconnects the American public from the job of the farmer and the plight that they face in delivering the abundant, high-quality, safe commodities that we enjoy.

In closing, the last of the vision process should promote solidarity within agriculture, assisting in establishing consensus and defining common goals for California agriculture.

Thank you for your time. I think this clock is faster than mine, I timed myself. Thank you very much.
PRESIDENT MONTNA: Carolyn, can we take a minute and allow some of the folks to come in and sit down. We have a hall full of folks out there that I think they're struggling to come in.

And so you folks come in that are in the hall, and we have a lot of seats inside.

And the translation equipment is working okay?

Okay.

FACILITATOR PENNY: As folks are getting resettled, when you give your name in the beginning, please give it loudly because there's been a request from the Board.

And so we have up next speaker 11 is Jennifer Hernandez, and after her will be Jesus Quevedo, speaker 12.

So we do have a sprinkling of open seats perhaps, so feel free to come on in and join us if you're out in the hall.

THE TRANSLATOR: And can you remind them to speak slowly for the translation, please?

FACILITATOR PENNY: If you can speak slowly during your allotted time, it sure would help the translator to keep up with you. All right? Ready to go again, folks? All right.

You're up.
MS. HERNANDEZ: Hi. Thank you, good morning.

Jennifer Hernandez with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation headquartered in Sacramento. We're here today on behalf of representation of farm workers across California. And I'm glad to hear that many of my colleagues today have been talking about the issue of water quality, environment, safety, air quality and whatnot, but I'm here to present a different perspective, the reality that farm workers face in California.

Here in the central valley, farm workers are living in communities where they have access to water, however, that water is contaminated. We need to make sure that the industry is moving forward successfully, including farm workers, but also using practices that don't contaminate our environment and provides the opportunity for farm workers to live healthy lives, to help sustain the community, and to be a part of the community.

I would like to go on the record and say that we are disappointed that we were not able to receive enough support in time from CDFA to provide the translation. Luckily our partners in the community were able to provide the equipment and we have volunteers that do work in the community with farm workers that are helping out and doing the translation. We want to thank them for that.
And we would just like to make the recommendation that moving forward, that the process of providing input from the community is one that at the forefront understands that the agriculture industry at its base and at its heart has farm workers, and farm workers, unfortunately, don't always have the ability to speak two languages, English and Spanish, and that is key to developing a plan that's going to move forward that's going to help the industry grow, agriculture grow in California. It needs to include the farm workers at its forefront.

For us we have a vision of agriculture that imposes the concept of a triple bottom line. One where environmental and social equity exists, one of economic prosperity and one of social justice and equity. As I said before, there was a lot of talk about the issue of pesticides, water quality, and we just want to say in order for us to be able to contribute to the solutions, we need to be able to -- we need to be considered at all levels, whether it's from the level of CDFA to local policies that are being implemented.

Here in Tulare County specifically, there's many groups that have done great work to work on the issue of pesticides, and that's a great victory, however, we need to encourage other, the citrus growers, the other sectors
of agriculture to work with us in partnering with us in partnering to help create better solutions.

And I'll yield my time. Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Next up is Jesus Quevedo, and then we'll have Kathy Kellison.

MR. QUEVEDO: My name is Jesus Quevedo, and I'm with a group called Vecinos Unidos. I'm also part of a group, water quality group called Agua, which means water in Spanish, Poder Popular, and the school district in my community.

I'm glad that there's been a lot of talk about agriculture, but one issue we haven't talked is about education of the children of farm workers.

If some of the farm workers had the opportunity to attend school and further their education in college, we could prepare professionals such as lawyers and doctors. To move forward we need professionals, professionals such as doctors and lawyers. And if we did encourage the children of farm workers to further their education, we could have professionals in agriculture furthering to grow the industry. We would have lawyers that understand the perspective of both the farm worker and agriculture industry who can defend and champion the rights of all of those involved.

We would have schools that have good teachers.
that help encourage students to become scientists and doctors. They would help contribute to improve our environment and environmental health, to help acquire safe drinking water. We have a lot of water, however that water is contaminated.

When we're talking about the issue of water, it's important to talk about the ability to have funding for water projects such as a dam. When it rains, the water runs into the streams and it all filters out to the ocean. We need to preserve our water, but also use it wisely so that we can encourage the growth of agriculture in California. Water is the key to a successful agricultural industry. For instance with the citrus growers and whatnot, that's the key that's going to help grow the agriculture system in California.

We also need to talk about renewable energy sources in agriculture. And given this hard time with gas prices, that's something that needs to be at the forefront. And we need to make sure that those that are the rich are not the only ones profiting.

To have a more productive agriculture industry, we need people that are healthy, and we can obtain that through health coverage for farm workers. There needs to be a balance. What we're seeing in the valley is that the orange groves and the almond groves are disappearing, and
it's all going into development.

These are my last-minute recommendations. I know I have a minute left, but these are my thoughts for the future of agriculture. And let's just keep in mind that we need to start today, not wait until 2030.

FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Next up we have Kathy Kellison, speaker 13. And after Kathy will be speaker 14, Alicia Rios.

MS. KELLISON: Good morning. I am Kathy Kellison. I am Executive Director of Partners for Sustainable Pollination. We are a nonprofit dedicated to improving the health of honey bees through a collaborative approach with key stakeholders while supporting populations of native pollinators. I'm also on the Board of the California State Beekeepers Association. So you can guess why I'm here today; I'm here to talk about honey bees and their importance to California agriculture.

And the California agriculture vision, to be complete, needs to consider the well-being of honey bees, because they are our primary pollinator for specialty crops in the United States. The amount is somewhere in the neighborhood of $15 billion of U.S. revenues each year, and in California, several billion dollars of revenue is attributable to the pollination services by honey bees and our beekeepers. And I know that everyone
here is well aware, if you've been reading the papers,
that honey bees are in trouble and as well our beekeepers
are in trouble because they bear the economic cost of the
loss of those bees.

So addressing the vision for California agriculture in 2030, our vision is for bountiful, healthy,
beautiful honey bees and a viable pollination industry to
carry out the pollination services so necessary to
sustainable agriculture and prosperous specialty crops to
continue. And there are issues, and I will get to those,
but it's going to need a collaborative approach. A trend
has been that beekeepers have been seen as the ones who
bear the burden of responsibility of keeping their honey
bees healthy; but there are too many external factors that
beekeepers have little control over, and it's going to
require leadership on the part of CDFA and also an
understanding by the public and growers and farmers alike.

So the biggest challenge is getting that message
on the table in terms of a corroborative effort to help
honey bees and the beekeeping industry and the challenge
to bring up bee forage in California, which is the letter
that has close signatories from a diverse group of
stakeholders from native bee biologists, honey bee
biologists, the major beekeeping industries, and
conventional agriculture and organic turn of the farm

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types of approach to production agriculture.

In terms of looking at how the public view and perception of agriculture will change in regard to honey bees, I believe the public is already becoming quite aware of the essential nature of honey bees to providing food on their plate and that there is a bit more work to do in terms of growing the awareness in the essentiality of native pollinators to a stable and diverse environment and ecosystem, being able to sustain diversity and biodiversity for the benefit of all wildlife and ourselves as well to enjoy in future generations.

So getting to the must-have, the must-have is a fortuitous thinking on the parts of establishing what we call bee forage. Lack of bee forage in California is a critical limiting factor to bee health and also to the beekeeping industry. Honey bees are easily transported in their boxes and can be supplementally fed, but entomologists across the nation will tell you that honey bees need also a simultaneous blending of successive plants blooming to bring in natural pollen to feed their young and for the longevity of the honey bee to be maximized and also for the robustness of the young bees in terms of resisting pests and diseases and pathogens that the honey bees face these days.

So in California currently it's estimated that we
have about 400,000 colonies of bees, which is only
one-fifth of the amount that we need to sustain the
pollination services for our specialty crops industry. So
increasing bee forage in California would do two
critical -- accomplish two critical goals for the
viability and the health of honey bees. First of all, it
would supply the nourishment that they need. It's a bit
sadly ironic that a species that we depend so heavily on
for our own food is suffering because of malnutrition.
And second of all, it would help California work towards
being self-sustaining for providing these pollination
services.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Okay. Next up, speaker 14,
Alicia Rios. After Alicia is Tricia Stever.

MS. RIOS: Good morning. My name is Alicia Rios,
and I'm with the California Centers for International
Trade Development, part of the State Center Community
College District. Hopefully that wasn't a minute.

While California is the top agriculture state in
the union, it is also the number one agriculture exporting
state with roughly one-sixth of all U.S. ag exports coming
from California. Improvements in transportation
technology have made the most perishable food products and
fishery products produced here successful.
Annual estimates from the University of California indicate roughly 25 percent of California agriculture production is exported, and that percentage is much higher for some key products like almonds, cotton and pistachios. To ensure a healthy future for California agriculture, a healthy trade environment is absolutely crucial. Unfortunately, due to policy and budget decisions, California agriculture has been left to fend for itself in the international trade environment.

Now, the statistics will indicate that California agriculture exporters have continued to maintain a strong export showing. Much of the strength can be attributed to the California Centers for International Trade and also the federal Market Access Program, known as MAP, which helps fund foreign promotion activities by numerous commodity organizations such as The Almond Board, the Wine Institute and also The Table Grape Commission, just to name a few. But the MAP program does not address key factors which will surely impact California's ability to compete internationally in the future, that is a well-trained workforce that is familiar with international markets, with foreign buyers and the nuts and bolts of getting our food and ag products overseas.

In an effort to plug the hole left by the result of the elimination of the state's trade program, the
California Centers for International Trade Development entered into a memorandum of agreement with CDFA to assume some of the responsibilities for such activities such as arranging foreign buying teams to visit California suppliers, or training agriculture producers on how to meet foreign import requirements.

Over the past three years that this MOA has been in effect, the cooperative effort has organized over 28 international trade events that 200 California companies have benefited from. The cooperative works in this manner: CDFA remains the official point of contact for USDA and foreign government contacts while the CATDs, the Centers for International Trade Development, provide a statewide network of resources to implement the activities and maintain close contact with the California food and ag exporters. Through this cooperative effort, food and agriculture producers can gain access to low-cost international marketing opportunities.

For example, we recently arranged for a Chinese buying mission to meet with 33 California food companies who had the opportunity to gain first contact with these buyers, and also, you know, showcase their products while gaining valuable feedback on the Chinese market.

Another program is the CalAgX, export training certificate program, which recently introduced 35...
California agriculture producers on all the aspects of selling their products overseas. Participants in this program run the gamut of California agriculture from the small boutiques of EOS Winery in Atascadero, to Bravo Farms cheese among many other companies. We expect each of these companies to begin exporting their product within the year. One other benefit from this cooperative program is that the colleges can work with the CATDs to institute international trade programs on their campuses.

But the question before us, will California's agriculture industry have the skills to compete in the international marketplace when we reach the year 2030? Our recent success shows that it's a definite possibility. Of course, greater state support for exports along with a fervent commitment from the community colleges to fund such programs as the CATDs will help to ensure a healthy California agriculture in the future.

Thank you for your time and your support.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Okay. Next we have speaker 15, Patricia Stever, and then after that will be speakers Amy Heers and Mikaela Serafin.

MS. STEVER: Good morning. My name is Patricia Stever. I'm the Executive Director of the Tulare County Farm Bureau. Thank you to the Department of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Secretary, and to Members of the Board...
for hosting this very important session.

Tulare County Farm Bureau has been representing
the agriculture community of this county for 92 years.
Our mission is to protect and enhance the viability of
agriculture.

In 2030 the vision of California agriculture I'm
afraid could continue to look much like it does today,
fighting many of the same battles and trying to overcome
some of the same issues that plague our industry. When
you look back in time, you can see the water resources,
land use and planning coexistence between the urban and
rural communities and rising input costs plagued our
industry even a hundred years ago. Not much has changed.
But what has changed in the past hundred years is our
country's desire to place greater emphasis on policing our
country's borders, protecting our country from terrorist
threats, protecting our environment, and assuring the
consumer that food and fiber products sold in the
United States are the safest, most reliable and affordable
products sold anywhere in the world.

Unfortunately, what the average consumer does not
realize is that many of the regulatory laws and rules that
have been adopted at all levels, through county, state and
federal government, have been very detrimental to
California farmers, the most regulated of any farmers in
the world. Many of these burdensome regulations have been advanced and enacted without true scientific knowledge about the cause of the problem, and it has placed California farmers at a disadvantage to their counterparts, not only across the United States but around the globe.

This over-regulation has made California one of the most unfriendly business states in the nation and it must stop if agriculture is going to remain a viable industry in 2030. It is a problem we must address now, not in 30 years.

Our ideal vision for agriculture in 2030 is to be operating and perceived as being progressive and environmentally responsible with the public's perception of us as one of the true stewards of the land. The public will see farmers and ranchers as being environmentally responsible, innovative and progressive, those that are scrubbing the air of toxins and volatile compounds through the production of crops. The public will see agriculture as our most vital natural resource to protect and will understand the importance of protecting ag as a strategic matter of national security.

I am reminded of the nation's victory gardens and liberty gardens and the United States School Garden Army Program, which were extremely successful during the first
and second world wars in the first part of the 20th century, where we mobilized school-aged children and entire communities to grow their own gardens, to conserve and ration important food and fiber resources, be more environmentally responsible and waste less and conserve more. We need to return to these values and these principles, a garden in every school and a school in every garden.

I really truly believe that mandatory agriculture education curriculum for K through 12th grade, continued support and expansion of our school garden programs, our liberty and victory gardens, funding of new and enhanced nutrition education programs, and continued investment in the education of career technical programs such as 4H and FFA need to be championed. We need to reconnect the public and decision makers in agriculture so that our school systems are the building blocks of where this education takes place, and that flows into our communities through our parents, our teachers, our community leaders and our public opinion leaders.

There are so many important challenges as part of this vision, of course, land, water, and the flexibility to grow crops that will return a viable investment. Protecting the right to farm will not be as important as protecting the ability to farm. And water, we cannot
survive in California without a reliable and consistent supply of water. California is failing to plan and therefore planning to fail in this arena. It is critically important that we help shape water policy and influence decision makers now to invest in infrastructure, conveyance and additional storage throughout the state, and we must stress flexibility.

Agriculture is an adaptive and ingenious industry and we will survive, but we need the relief now from over-regulation and radical environmentalism that is driving public policy in California. We are remarkably resilient, ever changing, adaptive and progressive regardless of laws and regulations. The cost of production, changes in climate and weather and natural resources, we will survive, but we need to tell the public this message and we need your help in setting a course for the future that will ensure that agriculture can exist.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Next up we have speakers 16, Amy Heers and Mikaela Serafin. And after them will be speaker 17, Brin Hanna.

MS. HEERS: Good morning. My name is Amy Heers, and this is Mikaela Serafin. And we are from the Tulare FFA Chapter.

First I'd like to thank you for the opportunity...
to speak to you all today about something that I am very
passionate about. Career technical education has been a
huge part of my life as well as the over 500,000 high
school students across America and over 50,000 in
California. Career technical -- I will be attending UCLA
in the fall and majoring in nursing, however, career
technical education, the lessons that I've learned through
it, will help me in my future career as well as other
areas of my life.

Now, the FFA has a rich tradition that I'm sure
most of you know about. It began back in 1928 with just a
few farm boys back when over 90 percent of the population
was somehow involved in production agriculture. Now,
today, agriculture claims less than two percent of the
workforce; however, the FFA is the largest youth
leadership organization in the entire nation.

I've been greatly involved in the FFA, and it can
be defined by its three main interlocking circles.
There's classroom education; leadership, which involves
public speaking and judging teams; and a supervised
agriculture experience program, such as raising a crop or
livestock. Though it is easy for me to define the FFA to
you, the impact that it has had on my life is almost
impossible to express.

For the past three years, one of the contests
that I've been greatly involved in is extemporaneous public speaking, and I will be representing California at the national level in October. Now, extemporaneous public speaking involves drawing a random topic, having 30 minutes to prepare a four- to six-minute speech on that topic, and then delivering the speech and being knowledgeable enough to answer five minutes of questions.

So through this topic I have researched the many struggles that agriculture is facing today and I have gained a true excitement about what the future holds for agriculture in the year 2030 and how I can get involved in it.

Here's Mikaela Serafin, and she will be speaking on the other two circles of agriculture and career technical education.

MS. SERAFIN: Classroom education as well as supervised agriculture experience programs are an indescribable component of the FFA organization. Through these two projects, students can learn and utilize life skills that they will be able to use in their future. Whether it's in a classroom setting studying the field of biology or even just working with our market animal, students' lives are impacted. Courses provided through the FFA include biology, chemistry, livestock and even business. The supervised agricultural experience program

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can be any sort of market animal or crop or directly
working with a business that directly has ties to
ground.

Through their commitment and hard work, members'
lives can be beneficial through what they have learned in
the FFA. Each event in the FFA exercises skills such as
public speaking, time management, critical thinking, as
well as future job skills.

From my own personal experience, I was raised on
a family farm, and regardless of what I wanted, I was
forced to take an agriculture education course. Up until
that point I had no desire to learn about agriculture or
my family farm. But once I was formally introduced to
agriculture, I immediately submerged myself in career
development events, career development events such as the
creed speaking as well as parliamentary procedure and
livestock judging.

Through these career development events, as well
as through my advisors, I have begun to love agriculture,
for I know it is not the awards or medals that I have
received that truly matter, but rather that I'm an
advocate for agriculture, a necessity to our livelihood.
The FFA is making a positive difference in the lives of
its members through premier leadership, personal growth
and career success.

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Today we have heard the struggles that are facing agriculture, and we have set goals in this session for the future. It is important that we continue to educate the future leaders of the agricultural industry. Career technical education must be broadened and strengthened, for it is the foundation for the development of leaders and in an industry that California simply cannot live without.

Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 17, Brin Hanna. Then we'll go to speaker 18, Teresa De Anda. And then I will let you know that we're going to take a very, very, very brief break after that and I'll tell you how that will work at that point in time.

MS. HANNA: Thank you, Carolyn. Good morning, Secretary, Chairman, and the Board. I am Brin Hanna here on behalf of the Ag Biomass Council. Thank you for hosting this forum.

I have been following your ag vision tour throughout northern California and hope you take to heart our vision for the future of California. It's important to have a vision, but it's equally as important to visualize the necessary steps it takes to make it a reality. Oftentimes I pull from an old proverb that
states, the lighthouse shines and you can see far, but you
cannot see at our feet. And at my feet and at our feet as
concerned Californians for agricultural land. We must
take the next step together. This next step must be
towards a self-sustaining, integrated agricultural system
throughout California.

Here in California we are so fortunate to have an
abundance, our diversity in agricultural products that we
produce here. We are not limited to a mono-crop like many
states in the midwest. Our needs here are different, our
daily issues vary from our neighboring states.

Efforts towards an integrated system through a
California farm bill must be created by Californians in
agriculture for Californians in agriculture to address our
regional issues. This California farm bill must establish
a public funding source for air, water, and soil
mitigation projects aimed to help our farmers with
compliance, support and self-sufficient farm practices.

This California farm bill would integrate air and
water quality issues and green waste stream management
with biomass technology. This California farm bill would
integrate organic soil amendment production domestically
with local application to decrease our dependency on
imported synthetic fertilizers. This California farm bill
would integrate business development and job growth with
agriculture. This California farm bill would recreate the agricultural identity of California that has been unrepresented and unacknowledged recently.

Though I'm relatively new to agriculture, I too see the shine of the lighthouse. So I ask you Board Members to join us, the Ag Biomass Council, in placing the stepping stones towards an integrated agricultural system for future farmers of California.

I thank you for your time.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up is speaker 18, Teresa DeAnda.

MS. DeANDA: Next time you have a meeting, you should have it in a bigger room and provide translation for those who are a little bit late signing up, because there was so many that had to sign up and then get their translation gear. But I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and I thank you all for being here.

This is a question; I know you can't answer questions right now, but I was wondering how this Board was formed and why community participants can't be there, such as us, the people who work in the community as grassroots organizations or organizations that represent the environmental community.

The question is what is your vision for California agriculture by 2030. By 2030 California's
agricultural system will continue to provide the diverse and high-quality food and fiber products that it does today, but it will do so with greater respect for human health and the environment. It is time for California to take the lead in pioneering innovative solutions to these problems and ensuring health and agricultural sustainability for years to come.

We see CDFA leading this charge with substantial emphasis in ecological pest management, EPM programs. California and its UC system had been a leader in biological control. Let's rebuild that leadership and pest management and environmental stewardship. Invasive species, for example, have and will continue to present serious challenges to maintaining sustainable agroecological systems. Adequate state resources must be provided to agencies at universities to support research, development and implementation of ecological pest management, including biological control methods that rely primarily on native or already established exotic natural enemies.

At a time when most of these resources are being heavily funneled into the dead ends of biotechnology, we call for CDFA to look beyond the industrial quick fixes and invest in ecological, robust and socially-secure agricultural communities. This can be achieved by --
here's some bullet points: Weaning ourselves from petroleum-based synthetic pesticides. These chemicals, including organophosphates and fumigants, upset natural biological controls, place workers and communities at risk and do not provide long-term solutions to any pest problem.

Providing farmers with support for transitioning to organic or ecological pest management systems. The state can play a major role in providing economic incentives and technological support to farmers wishing to transition to more sustainable practices.

Increasing small farm viability. Small farmers, when supported with access to and control over resources, hold a special power to provide food security in their local communities based on local knowledge and empowerment. These farmers will be the key to creating a net of agricultural sustainability and security far into the future.

Promoting equity with agricultural systems with an emphasis on safety, health and treatment of farm workers. This includes an adequate protection for workers and protections from exposure to pesticide drift for all communities.

To the extent possible, implementing fair local, regional and global trade policies that favor small
farmers and communities over multinational corporations. And the last bullet is adopting new governance mechanisms that are open, transparent and accommodate democratic participation in decision making.

I threw this one in here. Always assess cumulative impacts of different pesticides being used and how the cocktail of drift will affect the health of the public. And I said that because I'm from Earlimart, and in Earlimart in 1999 we had a big pesticide drift where over 180 people were documented as being affected by mentam-sodium, where many people who didn't have asthma the day before, had asthma the next day. The symptoms were many, many people suffering from burning eyes, such as if you rub your eyes with chili, vomiting, coughing, inability to breathe.

And then what happened after they were drifted on, they were taken to a football field and told to take off all their clothes, there was 24 of them, and they were hosed down by fire department water hoses. This was in 1999. And since then we've learned a lot. We've actually passed legislation in 2004 to improve the pesticide emergency protocol, and then we work very closely with the county agricultural commissioner here to promote the public knowledge of reporting drift always. That's why my particular concern is pesticide drift.
Well, just to finish up, we appreciate the invitation to share our vision for a sustainable and secure agricultural future in California with CDFA and stakeholders, however, we wish to emphasize that the changes that we call for are long overdue and the extended timelines characteristic of stakeholder processes will not bring relief quickly enough. We urge CDFA to craft a vision that incorporates these fundamentals of an environmentally and socially-secure agricultural future for California and then implement it to the full extent of your power as quickly as possible.

And I just want to say that usually it's the stakeholders at the table talking about all these things, and when the impact is on us, the state getters, so we want to be on that side of the table participating in the devising of any plans that you make.

Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. In just a moment I'm going to ask the Board and the Secretary if they would like to take a break. Assuming that a break might be good for everybody, here's how it would work. Speaker 19 is Jeff Rasmussen, speaker 20 is Argelia Flores, speaker 21 is Holly King. Whatever time the Board agrees to for the break, they will start with those speakers in that order. So we ask that those speakers come back and be back in the
room and ready to go again with whatever time limit the
Board and the President and the Secretary want to put on
this break.

So let me turn to the Secretary and President and
get your input on.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Five minutes max.

FACILITATOR PENNY: So five-minute break. Next
speaker back in the room ready to go again.

(Recess.)

MR. RASMUSSEN: Good afternoon, and thank you for
attending today's seminar. My name is Jeff Rasmussen.
I'm a pest control advisor from Bakersfield, California,
and I work with Western Farm Service. I'll discuss today
the must-have of California agriculture's vision.

In the must-haves I believe are the undervalued
solutions that I hope you take specific attention to. One
is mentorship. In the past, family farms have handed
down, trades were developed from one generation to the
next. Food was understood the essential for national
security. I believe the first one must be mentorship.
There are currently 66,000 Future Farmers of America
students across this state, and as you heard today, we're
losing them to other industries. I strongly believe that
mentorship such as in cooperation with the California Ag
Leadership Program, this is myself as a fellow or a
thousand fellows, you take younger students and people
that understand the bigger picture of the local, national,
and world views that we must take into account all
solutions. Many of these young students are looking
forward to going to college, but like I said, they're
going to non-agriculture majors. There's no positive
sustainable future without -- I'm sorry, I'm getting
feedback here -- with agriculture production without the
passion, knowledge of future producers.

The other undervalued solution is the general
public. They do not understand where the food comes from.

Last year I took it upon myself to educate at the fair.

We needed -- to educate the general public. My solution
was simple. Food comes from the farm, not the store. I
took six commodities and I took, for example, an almond,
and I showed them, yes, we grow a lot of almonds in Kern
County, but people do not understand what's in the
commodities in the store; such as in almonds, there's
candy bars, cereals, health bars, soaps, hand creams,
facial products, and most of all ice cream. People do not
understand where almonds are produced. They're produced
in Kern County. But when they go to the grocery store,
they do not understand that the commodities are produced
in the products that they buy.

This year I've upped it a notch. I could have
built the display myself, but understand, looking forward, I think we need to develop a mentorship program with these young students. So I'm working with the Kern County Junior Fair Board. This project, I hope to engage young teenagers providing educational displays that the general public can understand, such as these outside. It's a win-win. I get young students involved displaying to people and the general public at the county fair.

Going back to you, Secretary, these are solutions that are parallel. We're taking crossing over of educating young kids, establishing older leadership skills, and we're crossing them over into our county fairs that we can educate the general public.

Using in place -- using a system in place that encourages, guides, mentors and supports change in the future, these are rockets, not rocket science solutions. These are systemic solutions at the grassroots level that will sustain California's future.

Thank you.

MS. FLORES: Good afternoon. My name is Argelia Flores, and I work with United Way of Tulare County. I'm the Program Director for Poder Popular, which is funded
through the California Endowment.
The vision is that there is for (in Spanish)
optimal health in farm worker communities through a health
asset based approach that community building efforts have
been in development here in Tulare County in Lindsay,
Woodlake and Cutler, and we have a sister intensive site
in Monterey County.

The philosophy and model of Poder Popular has
been to encourage and support collaboration among
stakeholders in these communities, which include schools,
businesses, farm workers, health clinics, and the ag
sector, among others. By working together to build on the
health capitals that are in communities and that is more
inclusive on the decisions made that impact overall
community health, working together is going to move us all
forward in everything that impacts life in California,
impacts housing communities.

The health areas of focus, the health assets of
focus are community, individual built environmental,
financial, economic, political, social, cultural capitals
that we've been working towards and saying what do
communities have and building on those. And building in
alliances and strengthening those alliances, that it's a
win-win situation for everyone who is involved in these
agricultural communities and that we're working together,
not an us and them situation where one's -- it's together.

We all live here, we all play here, we all, you know, need
to eat here and encourage our communities to stay here,
encourage our youngsters to stay here.

In preparing some of the comments that you
already heard from others, but in my -- I says, I'm going
to do an informal survey; so I asked family, I asked
community members like firefighters and others, and I
says, help me out here, what do we want to say? What's
the vision of 2030 for agriculture? And four times out of
more than what I want to say, they said, what agriculture?
And I didn't want to go there, but that is where people
were going. They were talking about everything being
computerized, industrialized or had been that things were
going to be imported, that everything was not going to be
in California, that things were going to be grown out of
California and imported in. That's the community right
now, in terms of public perception of where agriculture is
going, that's the vision.

I'm hoping that by our efforts together, by our
inclusive efforts, we will look at focusing to change
that, and that by inclusive I mean that we're all at the
table making, discussing and influencing the decisions
that get made that impact our overall community health,
which includes eating healthy food, which includes working
in safe environments, which includes affordable housing, which includes us being able to live here and buy the food that we help either harvest, plant or -- well, that we can consume it, that is fresh and nutritious and free of a lot of harmful things.

I want to -- I'm going to close because this is a lot more nerve-racking than I thought.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: You're doing good.

MS. FLORES: So again, I want to emphasize the inclusivity component of the discussions and the decisions. Do not make decisions that influence me without me being at the table. Do not make decisions that influence many of the folks throughout California without their being able to be at the table. And I think we want to make sure that we are living, playing, and working in environments that are of mutual benefit to everyone. A healthy, steady workforce is of mutual benefit to everyone.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have Holly King. After that we will have speakers 22, Greg and Laurie Schwaller.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Carolyn, Argelia, just as far as being at the table, that's why we made this great effort to get -- start this effort, getting everybody...
here. The question was asked how do you get to this table earlier by Teresa. I think she's gone. There are 15 members of the State Board of Food and Agriculture appointed by the Governor. That starts out by going online to the Governor's website, and I think it's JoinArnold.com. You fill out an application, and that then is vetted through the Governor's office and then eventually appointments are made.

There are several public members on this Board. I think Ashley is an environmental member. We have another; Adan Ortega is also an environmental member. Adan's from Los Angeles. And then production agriculture and then our colleges, our representatives of state colleges and our university system, one person each.

So we'd encourage anyone to fill out an application and go through the process. And it's an open process. It's a transparent process, and we'd encourage anyone to go through that process for this Board.

But we did want to start by inviting all, all stakeholders, including our very valuable agricultural working community, which is primary. And so we hope you appreciate that. We also, we could have done a better job on the translation, we just didn't know we'd have this tremendous turnout. We want to thank our volunteers that stepped forward to help us today, but we'll get better at
it as we go along, we guarantee you of that.

Thank you.

MS. KING: Good afternoon. Thank you, Secretary Kawamura, and the State Board for taking on this activity, because I think a vision for California agriculture is very, very important.

My name is Holly King, my perspective is driven by my position at the Great Valley Center as Director of Agricultural Programs, but also as a partner in K&G Farms with my brother, which we farm in the Klamath basin when we have water, and as a principle in King Gardener Farms in Kern County.

There are numerous things to think about when we're talking about the future of agriculture, but I want to use my five minutes to focus on agriculture as more than a food-producing industry. While I believe that California agriculture is an essential and strategic asset for our nation because it provides a significant quantity of the food that we consume, I also believe that the other things agriculture provides represent agriculture's opportunity to elevate itself in the minds of the non-farm population.

My vision for the industry in 2030 is that more than the people on the farm are engaged or have an understanding of the intricacies of producing a crop. We
connect California's urban population to the fundamental reality that food and agriculture in their region is the foundation upon which their lives depend. This frame for agriculture will require work on both sides of the equation.

On agriculture's side, thinking about the production and delivery of their product in new ways and actually what their product is; yes, it's food, but it's also water quality and open space and air quality and groundwater recharge and energy production and stewardship services.

On the other side of the equation, the non-farm population participating in the cost of providing these services, both in dollars and sacrifices.

Additionally, my vision includes California farmland, the most productive farmland in the world being declared an endangered species such that it gains the status it deserves. Because with that status, I believe it will have a better chance of garnering the associated water as well as other resources for production, if, of course, agriculture is contributing to the ecological and social values people are looking for.

The biggest challenge in achieving this vision, agriculture recognizing that it is not an industry in and of itself but part of a world whose ecological and social
sensitivities have changed right along with the economic realities of the business. The general public has heightened concerns about the environmental and social consequences of agriculture. Our challenge will be to move that needle from negative consequences to positive consequences. We do that and I believe the commitment by non-farm -- if we do that, I believe the commitment by non-farm populations to the resources that produce the benefits inherent in agriculture, food, open space, groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, the list goes on, will follow. This will take out-of-the-box thinking and out-of-the-box action. Trying to do this completely within the existing system we have now is not realistic. After all, doing the same thing and expecting different results is the definition of insanity.

In 2030 will the public's perception, what will it look like? This depends on what we do between now and then. If we get people connected to their food so that when they see a tomato on their plate they will subliminally recognize that it took water, people, expertise, open space, air quality to get that tomato to their plate and the tomato is an important ingredient in their good health and that it took good farmland to grow that tomato, we will have done our job.

I believe that the quality of a product will
include ecological values and attributes. Currently California cannot compete in many crops as a low-cost producer. Value to consumers must be derived from other product attributes such as point of origin, ecological and social values. Until the market compensates for these values, federal and state policy and programs need to offer incentives and compensation to farmers, ranchers and fishermen for providing stewardship services, energy production, water quality protection, recycling of urban waste, et cetera.

Some must-haves in ag vision, I'm only going to do two, I've sent these in written. Compensating farmers that are willing to put an easement in perpetuity of their property with a guarantee for water; in other words, pay them with water. Providing opportunities for revenue from on-farm energy production and other value-added services so that they can diversify their income.

Thank you very much.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thanks, Holly.

FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Speakers 22, Greg and Laurie Schwaller. And then next up will be speaker 23, Carol Chandler.

MS. SCHWALLER: Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important subject. My name is Laurie Schwaller. I'm speaking two sets of my

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comments, myself and my husband Greg. We are residents and concerned citizens of Tulare County. I will try to combine the two sets of comments into the five-minute limit.

Agriculture has for decades been Tulare County's economic engine. Our fine climate, rich soils and abundant water supply from groundwater in the Sierra snowpack have enabled our farmers to grow close to 300 different crops, to make our county the number one dairy producer in the country, to export products to countries all over the world and to employ tens of thousands of people both directly and indirectly.

At the same time our agricultural economy has damaged our air, soil, and water, and has harmed the health of many of our residents, both human and not. It has damaged acres of natural habitat and wetlands and has often wasted quantities of water and soil. It has already created high social costs in our county, not only due to excessive hospitalization rates and premature deaths, but also because farm workers are the lowest paid workers in the country and too often cannot afford decent housing, infrastructure, education, health care, or other social services, despite their great need for them and our great need for farm workers.

Now our agricultural economy is threatened by
sprawling development, inflated land values, decreasing
water supplies, spiraling fuel costs, and global climate
change. For the health and viability of our economy, our
communities and our natural resources, we must work
together to make California agriculture visible, valuable,
healthful and sustainable. This means cooperation,
collaboration and resource sharing across all sectors.
Time is of the essence.

   Education is a key component of this process.
Neither agriculturalists nor consumers can thrive without
healthy soil, clean air, and clean water. We almost
learned to see the connections between our actions and
their impacts and how we can work together to minimize our
harmful effects and be better stewards. This means
significant budgeting for research, development, and new
curricula, bringing agriculture into schools and students
into the fields furthering understanding of and
appreciation for local production, ensuring that local and
regional planners are promoting compact, resource-
efficient healthy communities that save room for farmland,
native species habitat, and natural hydrological systems,
encouraging the general public and public entities such as
schools, hospitals, and governments to purchase
locally-grown food and serve healthy meals, and ensuring
that natural ecosystem services like the bees, are
understood and correctly valued and maintained.

In order to continue, our agriculture must become sustainable, which means that it must quickly and systematically adopt an integrative and regenerative approach that maximizes leverage of natural biological systems working with and promoting adaptive, biodiverse production that minimizes use of toxic substances and builds and supports healthy soil and restores and supports well-functioning natural hydrologic systems, sustainable practices making agriculture a valued good neighbor that promotes the health of its community.

In Tulare County, which often has the worst air quality in the nation, sustainable agricultural practices will also concentrate on reducing output of PM-10 and PM-2.5, methane and toxic chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides. Animal confinement facilities will construct green buildings and install digesters to reduce impacts to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Agricultural facilities will also stringently monitor their impacts on water quality and implement all best management practices to avert contamination and waste of water supply.

The Water Board's test data show that 63 percent of sampled valley dairies have at least one nitrate-polluted well, 40 percent of sampled household wells in Tulare County contain unsafe amounts of nitrate.
And more than 20 percent of the county's state regulated public water systems failed the nitrate test. Meanwhile, Tulare County has the greatest amount of groundwater overdraft, 820,000 acre feet per year in the state, a declining snowpack, and a declining groundwater table. This is not sustainable.

Tulare County used more than 17 and a half million pounds of pesticides in 2005, the third highest use of any county in California. Pesticides banned decades ago are still found in our soil, residues are found in fish in Tulare County's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, whose air quality is often the worst of all the nation's parks.

To be sustainable, agriculture must meet air quality goals and help to meet the requirements of AB32. Public programs should reward agriculturalists who provide stewardship services, including conservation and enhancement of habitat and natural hydrological systems, and penalize those who do not.

Local and state jurisdictions should also work actively to enable sustainable agriculture by establishing funding and enforcing mitigation programs to permanently conserve farmland, including rangeland, watersheds and wetlands and habitat.

I don't know whether I can use some of Greg's
five minutes. If not, I'll just email in the rest of the
comments.

            FACILITATOR PENNY: Anyone is welcome to mail in
or email in the comments. As far as continuing on, I'm
going to look to the Board for some help. I'll let you
know we're not halfway through the list of speakers yet.

            MS. SCHWALLER: Thank you for the opportunity.

            SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you for your comments.

            FACILITATOR PENNY: Speaker 23 is Carol Chandler.

Speaker 24 will be Ralph Mendes.

            MS. CHANDLER: Good afternoon. My name is Carol
Chandler, and my family farms tree fruit, grapes and
almonds in Fresno County near Selma. And our farm has
been in the family for three generations and we hope to
continue on to the next generation.

            Without an adequate and dependable supply of
water, the future of agriculture in our great state is dim
as best. 40 years ago Governor Pat Brown was able to
build water projects that still serve us today. We cannot
afford to wait another 40 years to pass a water bond that
will provide the storage and conveyance that is needed to
sustain a growing population and our agriculture industry.
We need a water bond now in order to project what
agriculture will look like in 2030.

            It's a strong possibility that California
farmland will continue to go out of production in the coming decades. Lack of a sufficient water supply first leads to the fallowing of acres of farmland, as we've seen this year on the west side of San Joaquin Valley. Farmers may be growing crops on fewer acres, but once land is out of production, it is on track to be developed; then this valuable resource is lost forever.

Contributing to the potential reduction in farms and farmland is the overall cost of doing business in California. Yes, farming is a business. When our family invests time, energy and financial resources in tree fruit, vines and almonds, we hope the crops they produce yield a profit to allow us to stay in business. However, a spade of regulations and layered mandates drive the costs up tremendously and often make profits unachievable. For example, many of the air quality regulations imposed by the Air Resources Board will have a huge negative economic impact on farms in California.

When diesel farm truck engines that are only used during a few months of harvest must be retrofitted and then replaced within a few years, it is a great financial burden. Unintended consequences of overregulation could be abandoned farms, reliance on a foreign food supply and a negative economic impact on the budget of our state.

Retaining tax exemptions for off-road diesel engines and
Our family farm has been in business since 1889, Bill and I hope that our two sons will be able to continue in the farming business, but the future of agriculture in California is uncertain. We take pride in the quality of crops we produce and hope that we can carry on farming in our fertile valley for years to come.

In closing, I'd like to thank our university partners that give us the tools and innovation to help California agriculture to stay competitive in a world market.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you. We look forward to you to give us the roadmap for the future of agriculture in California. Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thanks, Carol.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Speaker 24, Ralph Mendes.

Then will be speaker 25, Jim Sullins.

MR. MENDES: My name is Ralph Mendes. I'm an agriculture educator from Bakersfield, California. I've been teaching for about 30 years. I'm also an Advisory Board Member for the California State Future Farmers of America.

My vision, what I see as a vision for agriculture for 2030 cannot -- can't not include education. And we saw an example of that today with some of these students.
I started teaching ag in the early eighties, and at that point agriculture education at the high school level, there were 17,000 ag students in California. And ag was looked at -- ag education was looked at as a place where you put the kids that nobody else wanted, and the word vocational education meant not going to college.

And my grandparents immigrated to California in the forties from the Azores, and they didn't speak or read or write English, and they worked this agriculture. And my father, who dropped out of school to work in agriculture, could speak English very well but couldn't read or write. So they made sure that I got through high school and got to college and was very fortunate enough to go to agriculture college at Cal Poly and through junior college at Santa Rosa Junior College, and just swerved into ag education. And I enjoyed it because I enjoy working with the youth.

But I was always perplexed with the negative stereotype of education, of agricultural education amongst the educational community. And California Department of Education has provisions for ag education, but it doesn't seem to get that much support when you're looking through A through G requirements and reading and writing scores in California and testing. And so my encouragement would be for this Board to adopt the Future Farmers of America Ag
Education in California and to help provide for that. I would like to see an ag educator on your Board. I would like to see your Board financially support the California FFA Center, which has recently been built in Galt, California with the help of the 64,000 FFA members in California and a lot of businesses. There's a $5 million plan to build the FFA center in Galt, California. Today there are 64,000 FFA members. When I started teaching there were 17,000 FFA members. My high school in particular is -- started an experiment about 15 years ago to make our agricultural program college prep. Today to be successful in agriculture, you have to go to college, you have to go to at least two years of junior college and study something specific. To become a professional in agriculture, we know that you have to go to a four-year college to gain some knowledge and experience in something other than maybe just farming. Farming is a very small part of agricultural education. Recently we had some students from Bakersfield, my high school, that won the national championship in parliamentary procedure. The young members that we teach in high school today are going to go back onto the farm, but they're also going to go into the science labs and develop safer chemicals, they're going to be members of
boards, they're going to be salespeople, they're going to be teachers like myself. And I can't envision an agriculture in 2030 that doesn't have us supporting agricultural education in California.

That's my comments. And I thank you for the time to be able to present.

FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Next up we have Jim Sullins. And after Jim Sullins will be John Harris.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Ralph, Dr. Dave Wehner is on our Board as you know, Dean of Ag at Cal Poly, former head of the Horticulture Department, former educator; so you might communicate with Dave your further thoughts.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I'm going to interrupt you, Jim, just a second, also to make a comment.

Many of you, and it's been mentioned today, there's that three-legged stool that people talk about of sustainability, the three Es. It's equity, in the social arena; economics, viability of an economic activity, profitability; and environmental. Those are the three Es of sustainability that people talk about all the time.

We've certainly realized that there's a missing E, and that missing E is education. And whether it's in the form of research or the career tech education, our outreach to the public, that last E, which makes it not a stool, but a platform, a very stable platform, that's what
we continue to talk about what agriculture has to be all about, embracing those four components.

So thanks for your comments.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Okay, Jim.

MR. SULLINS: Thank you, Secretary Kawamura and Chairman Montna and Members of the Board. And I'd be remiss if I didn't welcome my new boss, Vice-President Dooley. And we've had some people talk about being under pressure; there's nothing like having your boss sitting on the Board that you're talking to.

And a warm welcome to Tulare County, we don't have any choice in July. So but it's better than sometimes the cold weather in February.

When we talk about looking at a vision for ag in 2030, it gets real difficult to talk about that and trying to look at a forest and not be overcome by the trees, and we've talked about a lot of trees today. We've talked about a lot of the hindrances that we've had. But I think we have to take some of the assumptions, whether we like it or not, and look at what ag in 2030 may look like in Tulare County and southern San Joaquin Valley.

We know we're going to have a growing population that are looking for low-cost housing. We know that we're going to have more and greater demands on our water system, either environmentally, municipal water, and other
demands that we may not even foresee today. And we're
going to be continuing to have impact on this growth on
air quality. And we're in severe danger in agriculture in
the southern San Joaquin Valley being the mitigation bank
for all of these changes. We see that today.

But I'd like to offer up a vision for ag in
southern San Joaquin Valley, particularly Tulare County.
An agriculture that remains productive on less water,
farmers that farm with less impact on air quality and are
only held responsible proportional to the amount of air
quality impact that they have, the success by farms in an
increasingly urban and environmentally-challenged valley.
I see an agriculture that will remain diverse not only in
crops and products but also in size and production
methods. We need to welcome an agriculture that is both
large, medium, small, organic, and also traditional, but
they all must be sustainable.

Let me diverge a little bit to a story. This
story comes from the recent retirement of my viticulture
advisor in Tulare County. I asked him to give a summary
of his career, 36 years of being a cooperative extension
advisor in Tulare County. He started in 1972, '73, and he
was part of the team, the agricultural science team that
brought drip irrigation to viticulture in Tulare County.
They developed drip education. And as you'll note today
when you go and see a vineyard, there's hardly a vineyard out there that has not adopted drip irrigation.

They developed how to manage drip irrigation and how to fertilize with drip irrigation; but those teams coupled with USDA and the partnership of the industry also developed new vines, new cultural practices, new trellising techniques. It's been a complete progression over those 30 years. But the bottom line is that viticulture in the southern San Joaquin Valley today has four times the yield per acre with half the water. It's hard to see how that journey gets there, but that partnership was science and industry. And tomorrow's future and in this blueprint it's going to be critical that it is strong in science and strong in partnerships. We have to have a partnership with science, industry, policy, and the consumer. We have to find those answers in all four of those arenas to be viable in 2030.

That's under my must-have, and that's what I see for a successful ag in the San Joaquin Valley from my perspective. And, of course, that's as a UC member. And I welcome all of our ag schools and recognize that it's not just a land grant university that can contribute to these successes, but we're going to have to get past many obstacles on the way, but I hope your blueprint includes strengthening science along the way.
And by the way, Dan, I have no idea when I'm going to be able to fill that position of that viticulture advisor.

BOARD MEMBER DOOLEY: First comes the bragging and then the begging.

FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Up next we have John Harris. And after John Harris will be Karri Hammerstrom.

MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon. I'm John Harris. I farm and ranch and been in Fresno County, raised a bunch of different crops and have for a long time. Also the feed business, the restaurant business, and horse business.

Today you're hearing a lot of good ideas of high importance in the success of California agriculture. A way for a need for better water, research, education programs, good infrastructure; all these things are really important and I endorse. But one of the -- I realize it's not supposed to be a gripe session, which probably these things end up being, but that's what we like to do mainly, is gripe, but a lot of them are legitimate though.

And one of the things that I really don't like and I think it's holding agriculture back is the Endangered Species Act, which I think conceptually it was okay. It was signed into law back in 1972, actually by
President Nixon, and to encourage biological diversity, but its application has been narrowed so much that it's led to catastrophic results for so many areas of agriculture, it's really impacted the economy, and it's getting worse all the time. And the roll out going forward could be devastating to California agriculture and really shut us down if we just keep going the way we are.

The recent Delta Smelt Order, which I think the judge was somewhat limited to what he could rule there due to the law, it really restricted pumping of any water out of the Delta to come south through that California aqueduct which supplies millions of acres of farmland and millions of urban consumers to protect a fish that's about two or three inches long and it was listed as threatened in 1993. And there are many factors that have impacted the Delta Smelt besides the pumping, but the pumping seems to have taken all the brunt of the cutbacks. I feel that we could be pumping a lot more out of the Delta and to be supplied a lot more water if better science was applied and there was a balancing mechanism in place to really decide what the pumping was doing versus all the other impacts and if there was enough positives getting the water here, which I think there are, to justify a slight increase in the amount of takings of the Smelt themselves. There's a lot of invasive species in
the Delta, like the striped bass, that are probably eating
a lot more Delta Smelt than we're ever going to grind up
in the pumps.

   So we're all these water users, which is
literally thousands of farms and hundreds of thousands of
farm employees have taken a big hit, and we've got to
figure out what we're going to do about that because it
also greatly stymies any water transfers throughout
California; because most of the water in California is in
northern California, there's no way we can get it to
southern California without some way getting it through
the Delta in a way that will be acceptable.

   I think obviously we need a peripheral canal with
additional surface storage and all these things. But if
some of these Endangered Species Act decisions keep going,
even some of those things aren't going to help.

   Another negative impact which is more local is
something that happened here this spring. Since 1943
there has been an assessment program for growers to pay
into; it's called a Curly Top Virus Control Program. We
all pay -- tomato growers pay 12 cents a ton. And they
raised about a million and a half a year, that it's all
paid for by growers. And the State of California doesn't
pay for any of it, though they do reimburse CDFA who
basically runs it.
And we're happy with the way overall it's been run, but this year they were never able to get a permit from fish and wildlife to spray the western side of the -- basically the foothills out here just west of where all the farmland is, which are the habitat for a lot of leaf hoppers in the spring, and they dried up early in the spring, and these leaf hoppers move into the crops and really devastated a lot of crops because they carry a virus called the Curly Top Virus.

Where traditionally, you know, over, literally, almost 65 years they had this spraying program going which could control at least to some extent the leaf hoppers, and it's been a very sound program; but somehow fish and wildlife would never give effectively the program, through CDFA, the permit they need needed to spray because it's also kit fox habitat, and they took the attitude that you couldn't spray any pesticides, or particularly this one, which was malathion, which was pretty safe, in this habitat. And they kept delaying and delaying and delaying. And we didn't even find out they weren't going to spray until we had already had the tomatoes planted. So we lost, you know, 300 acres, just ourselves, of -- actually, organic tomatoes because we couldn't spray them either once the leaf hoppers got in them.

But agriculture needs to figure some way to stand
up for ourself better and really fight back. I think we have -- obviously a law's a law, but there needs to be more sound science going into some of these decisions and we need more people on our team that will really fight for the farmer, because otherwise I'm just concerned that going forward that we're going to be a -- the whole farm agriculture industry, despite all the good things we've got going for it, could just be a shadow of its former self because we've got so many restrictions that we don't have any water, we can't spray, we can't do anything.

Regardless, I wouldn't care if there was sound science saying that you just can't do this because you're really going to hurt something, but a lot of it is just the whim of some bureaucrat that's kind of faceless out there somewhere that is keeping us from moving forward.

We don't want to hurt any species or don't want to hurt anybody, but we've got to move forward. And I think CDFA needs to take a hard look at how -- what we're doing within agriculture to better mitigate and combat some of these bad impacts of ESA.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have Karri Hammerstrom. And then after Karri Hammerstrom will be Chuck Tarbell.

MS. HAMMERSTROM: Good afternoon. I'm Karri Hammerstrom. I'm second Vice-President of the California
Women for Agriculture. I'm also a small central valley stone fruit and alfalfa grower.

On behalf of California Women for Ag and our over 2500 member volunteers, we want to thank you for holding these listening sessions to talk about ag's promise beyond the year 2030.

CWA is the largest and most active all volunteer grassroots nonpartisan agricultural support organization in the State of California. Established in 1975, our membership is comprised of men and women from ag and non-ag backgrounds and professions and consumers. CWA believes that California agriculture is the fundamental cornerstone for the country's health and national security and that agriculture needs to be California's number one priority.

CWA is committed to maintaining a healthy and vibrant industry for California and our nation. CWA is dedicated to ensuring that a local, reliable food supply continues to be the foundation of our state's economy for future generations. We must not rely on foreign nations for our food or be held hostage by outsourcing our food production. Planning for agriculture's success should be the number one priority at every level of government.

Today you've asked the public and the industry for our 2030 vision for California agriculture, the
must-haves, and the challenges which we believe are
intimately intertwined. CWA shares a vision that
California agriculture must be respected and protected for
future generations, not because we want to cling to an
unrealistic obsolete folklore, but because we believe our
nation’s security demands a safe, abundant, domestic food
supply.

At the risk of sounding a little Pollyanna, we
envision 2030 agriculture to be healthy and vibrant, where
farms fields and ranches are actively producing food,
fiber, floral, and fuel for our country and the world,
where we have access to water, labor, technology,
biotechnology, markets, capital, and realistic
science-based regulations, where the elements of public
policy, environmental protection, social equity, animal
rights no longer threaten our agriculturalists but rather
work hand in hand with our farmers and ranchers amenably
with the community and the environmentalists.

However, before we can make that dream a reality,
we must make sure that the agriculture industry will still
be here in years 2010 and 2020, and because of this, our
vision also embodies some of the biggest challenges that
we consider the must-haves for sustainable industry.

It is an industry that we currently consider to
be environmentally sound and socially equitable, however,
it must be also economically feasible today in order to continue to be vibrant and healthy in 2030.

The California Food and Ag Code Section 821 reads as follows: As part of promoting and protecting the ag industry for the state and for the protection and public health safety and welfare, the legislature shall provide for a continuing sound and healthy agriculture in California and shall encourage productive and profitable agriculture. Unfortunately, most of the ag-related legislation in the past few years has had little or nothing to do with continuing a sound and healthy agriculture in California, much less encourage a productive and profitable agriculture.

As an agriculture organization whose members are on the front lines of implementing legislation, we often feel we go at it alone and we are frustrated by the urban disconnect and lack of sound policy support from our government. Social and environmental equity must be based upon sound science that takes into account our human needs and conditions as part of the ecosystem. Scare tactics, irresponsible rhetoric and threat of litigation cannot lead public policy decisions. All facets of our diverse industry, from conventional to organic and all the 350 commodities that we grow should be regarded and respected as productive agriculture, as part of our roots and

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heritage and too valuable to lose in the state or country. California agriculture provides access to wholesome nutrition. California agriculture is instrumental in nature's ecosystem and protects the environment. California agriculture fortifies our homeland security providing a domestic food supply and jobs. Unfortunately, if the current pendulum continues to swing, climate change and global warming will pale in comparison to what will happen, because agriculture in our state and country will be nonexistent.

With loss of national ag land of over one million acres a year to urban development, it is not far-fetching to anticipate that any remaining food or fiber produced in our country will be scarce and coveted by those fortunate to have access to it. The only remaining trace of agriculture will be in history books.

Loss of a domestic food supply will mean that healthy food, safe food will not be accessible to most people. Food safety issues will become more commonplace and difficult to overcome because of the lack of control over foreign imports. Our economy will regress as we become a nation without a domestic food supply. Doesn't that sound hauntingly familiar to a lack of domestic energy supply?

California agriculture is important. Government
and public apathy about agriculture is reckless and lacks foresight. There needs to be universal recognition of ag's importance. Unrealistic and unfeasible regulations need to become science-based, realistic and implementable. Wrangling over immigration needs to cease and ag jobs need to be implemented.

Crop research, biotechnology, acceptance and increased efficiencies need to occur. Voluntary preservation of ag land needs to become more routine. In the last months it has become painfully clear that we need a comprehensive water solution. We can't take California agriculture for granted, we must plan for the future, we believe that we need to protect this for future supplies.

Public policy needs to ensure the availability of water, land, technology, markets and labor sufficient to allow our farmers and ranchers to continue to produce profitably safeguarding our ability to feed ourselves. And we look forward to being part of that solution and helping CDFA in make taking the visions and putting them into a plan.

In closing, CWA knows that California agriculture must remain the fundamental cornerstone of our state and nation's health and national security. Our vision is not unique or impossible to accomplish, however, if we take this path that we're taking right now, like with our

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current water supplies, agriculture will be nothing more
than a vanishing mirage. We deserve better, our children
deserve better, and we know we can do better.
SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thanks, Karri.
PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.
FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, Chuck Tarbell. And
after Chuck Tarbell is Manuela Gonzales.
MR. TARBELL: Good afternoon. I'm Chuck Tarbell,
third-generation cattle ranching in Tulare County. I'm
currently President of Tulare County Cattlemen's
Association. I too would like to thank the Department for
giving us this opportunity to voice some of our concerns
as we prepare for the future.
We have a different set of issues than when our
grandfathers ran their businesses. We operate in a global
world, we face global economics, we're concerned about
water rights, water pollution, dust control, air
pollution, urban sprawl, disease surveillance, and food
safety.
Cattle ranchers own or manage 30 million acres in
California, we are a large industry. It's important to
maintain the livelihood of these ranching families who
provide stewardship and economic support for our state's
lands, our water resources, wildlife and communities.
California agriculture and California beef industry in
particular will remain world leaders in innovations and
production of safe and healthy products.

As of January 1st, the nation's cow herd was the
smallest in four decades. Input cost is soaring. Between
urban sprawl and acres being converted to farming,
rangeland is shrinking. The age of cattle producers
continue to climb as does the equity requirements to get
in at entry level in this business. There will be fewer
of us grazing on less land, and we must continue to be
innovative and adapt to new ideas and practices with
better genetic supplements and management skills. We are
producing more beef today than ever on less range and with
the smallest cow herd since the 1970s.

Continuing the trend toward a global marketplace,
increased emphasis on trade abroad and demand for products
produced overseas as well as foreign investment in the
cattle processing facilities in recent years, California
producers will be raising beef not only for the
United States but for consumers all over the world. To
continue to be a successful industry, we will need more
certainty in the production environment, economically and
regulatory, to allow producers to focus on the business at
hand rather than concerns about decisions made in
government that limit availability of land and water
resources upon which food production depends.
The foremost challenge is the lack of understanding by the average person of the challenge of agriculture and the value of our safe, stable, and affordable food supply. Improved awareness from the general public will be the only thing that stems the attacks from the interest groups on our family farms and ranches that make it significantly more difficult to operate a successful business here in comparison to neighboring states or other countries.

Another challenge is in the current trend in California of land and water use and conversion largely to development and municipalities. The Williamson Act has been an important instrument in keeping agricultural land in agriculture through tax benefits. Those of us who remain in this business are subject to the world's foremost regulatory regime.

A series of requirements and exclusions that dictate production practices increase production costs in our state more than any other in the world. Should the environment become continuously more difficult, keeping producers here itself will be a challenge. Farmers and ranchers are price takers in a competitive market, not price makers. Many have found it easier to move their operations to other more welcoming environments than to continue in California.
Fewer and fewer Americans have any connection to the food they eat, therefore, the respect and understanding of the importance of agriculture and the availability of safe and affordable food has diminished as well. Recent trends towards awareness have seen some increase and interest in food production, but not yet at a level required to provide any real change. This must occur.

It is critical that any vision for the future of California agriculture include public education of those who don't realize how their lives are positively affected by those of us in agriculture. The one perception that must be realized is that the farmers and ranchers work every day to adapt to a changing environment given the significant challenges facing agriculture today. Many farms and ranches that have operated in this state for generations may not last if we don't see some relief.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Up next we have speaker 28, Manuela Gonzales. After that will be speaker 29, Paola Fernandez.

You may notice that we're now at a few minutes after 1:00. Let me check in with the Board.

My expectation is that the Board's commitment is to stay here and continue to listen to the speakers who
have signed up.

If you need to go and would like to submit your comment in writing, you can feel free to do that as a way to make sure your comments get submitted today or on the website.

Let me check in with the Board about your sense of timing.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Yes, Carolyn, we'll just proceed. Individual Board Members may leave the room for whatever needs for a moment and return, so no one should be offended; but let's in the best interest of everyone's time, let's keep the testimony going, okay?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where do we submit our written comments?

FACILITATOR PENNY: If folks want to submit written comments, you want to submit them today, perhaps we could have Shawn Cooper who's at the door --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Also, there's a box at the registration table that says ag testimony, and anyone can put their comments in there, or email to the ag vision website.

MS. GONZALES: Good afternoon. My name is Manuela Gonzales, and I am here from Lamont, California from the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

As we know, the quality of air in the central
valley is one of the worst of the nation. You are in the position to make a recommendation to farmers to change, to change the practices that they currently have and to implement new methods to improve the air quality.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up is speaker 29, Paola Fernandez. After that will be speaker 30, Maria Hernandez.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Paola Fernandez. And I am working with Dolores Huerta Foundation and Vecinos Unidos. I'm the Poder Popular Program Manager that is funded by the California Endowment.

That being said, I just agree with a lot of the comments that have been said today that pertain to farm workers and how their lives could be bettered through some other practices, like better housing or better wages and things of that nature.

But what I want to focus on right now is that, as we know, farm workers can only work seasonally. It is extremely difficult for them to provide for their families when they are not working. It is essential that they be able to have access to food when they are not working, and this can be achieved by the following: The funds for the
food bank need to be expanded and provided to rural communities. When the funds ran out after the last citrus freeze, many farm workers had difficulty feeding their families.

There should be assistance from the U.S. Food and Agriculture to create community gardens which would allow farm workers to keep the majority of the food that they harvest. Also in collaboration with the U.S. Food and Agriculture, farm workers could be taught how to preserve food. For example, farm workers could learn how to can, freeze, and dry food.

And that will be all of my comments for today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up Maria Hernandez.

After that, Eva Ramirez.

MS. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Maria Hernandez. I am a member of Vecinos Unidos through the Dolores Huerta Foundation. My vision right now for the agriculture in California in 2030 is that there will be more deaths because of illegal use of pesticides. I would like for there to be some type of action before 2030, before 2020, that we could expect a future for our children and farm workers, that decisions and action be taken before 2020 that would change the use of illegal pesticides.
pesticides. If not, we will see that there's an increase
in people who are ailing from asthma.

We all do think about the damages of pesticides
in our communities, in our food products, but there is
little focus on our farm workers who are the most
impacted. Hopefully something is done before 2020, 2030;
but I hope that you as directors will take some action
soon.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, Eva Ramirez. After
that, Enfrocina Ordaz.

MS. RAMIREZ: Good afternoon. My name is Eva
Ramirez. And I am with the Dolores Huerta Foundation
group, Vecinos Unidos.

I would like to share the following comment,
which is that agricultural workers need to have safe and
confident transportation. This service should be provided
by either the city or the county, depending on where they
live. The drivers should also be provided by the city
and/or county. This would be of mutual benefit to the
worker and the employer because workers will be able to
consistently be at work and the employer will have workers
that are on time.

Thank you. And thank you for allowing me to
MS. ORDAZ: Good afternoon. My name is Enfrocina Ordaz. I am an organizer in Lamont with the Dolores Huerta Foundation and the Poder Popular Program. We would like to see before 2020, 2030, that there would be a training on agriculture for youth. It is important to implement a program that would allow youth to work in agriculture during the summer. There are few jobs available to youth in the central valley, and agricultural work is one of the honorable and good works available to youth. By employing youth they will be able to focus their energy on positive activities.

The practices by many farmers is not to employ native residents because of their age, and this could be changed formally so that they would consider having youth employed in agriculture. This would benefit the community and the farmer. The community will benefit because youth will have employment, and without this opportunity perhaps they would be shifting their energy to maybe something less positive. The workers would also have a bigger base from which they -- the farmers would also have a much bigger base from which they could hire persons to work and
to take the crops.

And I would like to add that it would be a good opportunity for youth during the summer and that would be a good opportunity for youth to be involved in the summertime, given that a lot of times there's limited employment in stores and/or other opportunities, and this would give them a way of getting rid of some of that energy that might get them into negative consequences.

Remembering that our youth is our future. Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next is Jose Lara, speaker 33. Then we have speaker 34, Maria Yepez.

MR. LARA: Good afternoon. I am here from the community of Arvin. My community is here to share these thoughts.

Agriculture in California is preeminent not only locally in the state but worldwide. It is important to also take into account the human factor. Not only is the human factor critical and important for us to take into consideration because without their sweat and labor many of the crops would not be harvested.

Many times an agricultural worker is employed without actually knowing who their actual boss is and does not know who to go to when there is an instance to make a
report for mistreatment. And on occasions the check that they are given weekly is good, that is to say when they go to cash it, it is returned for no funds available.

I come here to advocate for the human sector and that we take into account those reasons that as much as the contractors as the farmers, that they take into consideration and recognize that labor and give the farm worker what is his due.

I thank you for your time.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up Maria Ramirez, speaker 34, and after that will be Maria Yepez.

So speaker 34, Maria Ramirez passes because her comments have already been made, so we're going on to speaker 35, Maria Yepez. After that, the next person up will be Timoteo Prado.

MS. YEPEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Maria Yepez. I work with the Dolores Huerta Foundation with the Poder Popular Program.

We all understand the value and importance of having pest control to have healthy crops, but it's also important that what's also important is the health of the farm worker. It is very important for us to know what type of pesticides, what types of chemicals are going onto the fields. One suggestion would be that we develop or
that organic pesticides are developed. This would also be a benefit because many workers and families would be less exposed or less -- would have less -- well, would be -- there would be less diagnosis of asthma or valley fever.

I have a child that has valley fever, and when I go to the clinics, I see very -- huge amount of people that have valley fever. And it's very heartbreaking to see the many children that are suffering from either asthma and/or valley fever, and seeing that as they are coming, many folks to the clinics are sometimes not able to walk due to the conditions and/or the symptoms of their illnesses. So I would ask you to look at looking at whatever you may be able to do to change that would impact the number of folks that are becoming ill with either asthma or valley fever.

Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, 36, Timoteo Prado.

MR. PRADO: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Timoteo Prado, and I come from the community of Arvin. And I also work with Poder Popular.

I've heard many comments this morning from farmers in the citrus industry, pistachios, almonds, all industry in general. And we are talking about a vision
for the year 2030, but I am not sure that in the year 2030 there will still be agricultural workers.

This afternoon I would like to ask you, you and us that have the power, to see if we could obtain a permit for agricultural workers; the workers would benefit, the farmers would benefit because their crops would be produced and harvested. And that would be of great benefit to the whole State of California. That we would all struggle together now and quickly and not wait till the year 2030, because perhaps by the year 2030 most of the current ag workers would be retired.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: There's a clarifying question.

BOARD MEMBER DEARDORFF: Yeah. I just had a question. You mentioned the word "permit"; he said it would be beneficial for all the ag workers to have a permit. I'm curious what he meant by that term.

MR. PRADO: (Responded in Spanish.)

BOARD MEMBER DEARDORFF: (Replied in Spanish.)

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next speaker, Francis Macias.

After that, it will be John Miller.

MS. MACIAS: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Francis Macias, and I come from Lamont, and I am here
representing the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

It is very important that whenever there is going
to be a change in agriculture that you take the farm
worker voice into consideration because they are also
impacted or affected. We are willing to work with you to
make changes in agriculture in a positive way.

That is all. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, John Miller. And
after that, we will go to Glen Anderson.

MR. MILLER: Good afternoon. My name is John
Miller, and I'm actually representing myself, although I'm
an elementary teacher in Porterville, and I teach
gEOGRAPHY for Bakersfield College and I live outside Ducor
on a couple of acres out there.

I'm actually here today because I'm a citizen of
California, and agriculture is -- the word is in our
culture, and everybody should be concerned with this.
I've heard from the farm workers, I've heard from the
farmers, I've heard from a lot of other groups; and in
general I'm in agreement with almost everybody, few
exceptions, of what I've heard today.

This is kind of going to be all over the place.

Yesterday when I heard about this, I wrote down six pages
of quick bullet notes to say whatever; but I'm not going
to get to all six pages, so I'll try and go ahead in a
couple of different things that are around here.

Heard quite a bit about education. I've been
involved in education for over 20 odd years at all
different levels. I taught kindergarten, and that too is
in its name, garden. We should be having gardens in every
school. I know we tried that a few years ago; we've
gotten away from it. I'd like to see this not just at
high school level, college level, but all K-12.

But something that needs to be said is we must do
something about the No Child Left Behind Act, because that
act is driving science education away, history education,
agriculture education away, technical education with its
emphasis specifically on mathematics and language art
scores, all the other educations are being thrown out the
doors. So in the education system we must do something to
change No Child Left Behind, because we're not having the
opportunity to teach all these other subjects. Students
are being driven out of vocational ed.

Speaking of different types of agriculture,

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going toward plant-based substances.

   My vision for agriculture is to be seeing a much healthier agriculture where everybody's involved, because it does affect everyone. Over 90 percent of all the kids in this valley have lung problems. I myself, everybody here is affected.

   You've heard about the water. We need to be cleaning this up. And part of the problem though is that our farmers are not competing on a level playing field. I know we have lots of regulations, but what needs to be done is, say, hey, the crops are going to be sold in California or the United States, the other countries must meet our standards for environmental, for labor, for health, other things. The people of this country deserve healthy food and safe food. I do not know why we're importing food from China, other than the lowest common denominator; okay, money, but that is going to be changing our transportation costs.

   Global climate change is inevitable. It changes all the time. I hear there's plans for more dams and waters in the mountains. We don't know what we're going to have yet.

   One thing, it bothers me immensely, is Saudi Arabia is a dairy exporting nation. They do it with our money because they have no water of their own, but they
have desalinization plants. We're not going to solve our water problem in California by pulling more water out of northern California, shipping it through at extreme high cost and putting more dams in the mountains. We're going to have to use it wiser, but we are going to have to invest in desalinization plants for the urban uses because that's where a lot of this water's going. The farmers have done a better job using their water, but we need to look at a future plan.

I know the American Farmland Trust has looked at this for years, talking about what's going to be in the population in this valley. They're talking about dumping ten million people here over the next 20 years. This cannot support it. The water's poison, the earth's poison.

We need statewide land use planning. I know that's anathema to the construction industry and to other people, but we need to sit back here, and all prime farmlands, all Class I farmlands should be identified, and we've done our best to conserve it. And it needs to be on a statewide level, because this state can feed the world. I know that we are feeding other places, and our own people are not real healthy with this.

I'd like to see more small farmers involved in farming. I studied agriforestry and community gardens.
I'd like to see community gardens through all our towns and communities. I'd actually like to see the prison system get involved in training some of the prisoners to get back into gardening and farming. We're the largest incarcerator in the world here; we need to put people's minds into different areas. I'd also like to see community hospitals for like the VA, rehabilitation centers, preschools, old folks' homes, they know about all this.

One of the things too I'd like to see -- real quick, and I see time, there's a lot of things I'm not quite getting here -- but I'd like to see the happy cows commercials be true. Okay? You know, I drink a lot of milk and the rest, but I really do think that our dairies out here can do a lot more to be environmentally friendly. I think they also are energy factories. Every dairy out here could be producing methanol and they could be using solar energy. We could be doing lots of stuff through agriforestry, putting up windbreaks and doing smarter farming practices around.

I know there's lots and lots of other things out there, but I do want to go ahead and -- just one or two other things, here, real quick, which is, I know it's not the San Joaquin Valley, but a dream of mine is to see the Salton Sea get cleaned up again too. And we've got to
consider the farming in the Imperial Valley, because that's an ecological disaster zone right now.

And one more thing I'd like to say right now is that a country that cannot feed itself is not secure whatsoever and that our country was founded on agrarian principles and I'd like to see us get back. And it may be pie in the sky, but to tout some of the Thomas Jefferson principles that said, hey, everybody should be involved in farming and doing alternative crops.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 40, who is Glenn Anderson.

Let me check with Secretary Kawamura and President Montna.

You have nine speakers left. Shall we just continue?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Keep going.

FACILITATOR PENNY: So we have speaker 40, Glenn Anderson. After that speaker 41, Larry Dutto.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you for this opportunity.

I've been listening intently for some discussion of the energy crises as it appears before us. I farm organic almonds up in Hilmar in Merced County, and I've been doing it for, well, about 20 or so years, and have been selling them under the trade name Anderson Almonds for about 18
years, 19 years, and it has worked out quite well for us.
I'm also 73 years old, going to be 74 in October,
and I'm kind of the last of the Andersons on our avenue in
Hilmar. We used to pretty much run the place, but
everyone else has moved away but me and my wife, and --
yeah, it's me and my wife, just us on that street.

Energy crisis, what do we do about escalating
petroleum and increasing global demand for petroleum when
in fact we've got a petroleum-based agriculture and food
system? I think it's the biggest challenge looming before
us. Alternative energies aren't coming online very fast,
and we continue with our gluttony and our culture. My
Prius was getting 48 miles to the gallon coming down here
with three of us inside of it driving 70. We could have
been picked up, that eye was shining on us a few times.

I think that we need to really put -- underscore
research and readjusting our priorities. I think on my
farm I can very likely do a few things differently. It
seems to me that there's going to be an emergence, I know
that there is an emergence now, and I think there's going
to be an expansion of that, of this dual system of
agriculture. Megafarms with confinement livestock, I've
got it all around me. I used to be a dairy farmer,
fortunately I'm not anymore, but I've got cows all around
me. And they are growing very rapidly, those enterprises
are growing; some are dropping. But there's a huge
challenge with how to do livestock properly in my
estimation. That whole thing is dependent on petroleum.
I remember when in fact all of agriculture didn't
have tractors in it. I'm old enough to remember when our
family got its first tractor.
So this dual system that I think will emerge will
be one of really based on local production, local
consumption. We've talked about community gardens and
education, revising our academic curriculum to include
some gardens and ag technologies. And I think that if I
convert three acres of my farm over to local
consumption -- I have built a little model around my
farmstead where I can pick something from a tree 12 months
of the year and eat right there. I think I should offer
that up to the community by expanding that model and just
say, come to my farm. I can have a U-pick here. They can
pay at the gate and have a little adventure farm, bring
their kids and bring their family, sit in the middle of it
and meditate and enjoy themselves. And if they want to
take some home, there'll be another fee. I think I could
put that up on the internet and probably draw some
visitors from who knows where. I'm going to start
thinking about doing that starting this fall. And perhaps
I could even draw some of my family back to that road if I
had something that was relevant to the current situation.

And to me, that seems to be something really important, is figure out how we're going to eat better locally, more wholesomely, and protect the environment with a very biodiverse production system with a lot of native plants and proper utilization of the water in that model.

Thank you again. It was fun.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 41, Larry Dutto. After that will be speaker 42, Mark Hess.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Larry, before you start, I'll just make a quick comment on the community gardens and the school garden.

When we started and came into this administration, a lot of us felt that that was a very important thing that can be done. In the previous arm of education that had school gardens, a garden in every school, even though nutrition was not necessarily a large part of that, it was more of the ag literacy side of it, and combined with ag literacy plus the nutrition, obesity, the whole dynamic there, it's been quite a focus for us. We've gone -- I think we have 9,000 schools in the state when we started four and a half years ago; 3,000 of them had a garden believe it or not. Today it's over 5,000 and
growing. And our goal is to have a garden in every
school.

So, Mr. Miller, I wanted to -- is that John
Miller over there? I just wanted to tell you the garden
component as a tool, as a resource, as something that can
help, whether it's in a school or in a community, I'm a
firm believer in that, and I see great value in it.

Thanks.

MR. DUTTO: My name is Larry Dutto. I'm the Dean
of Agriculture and Career Technical Education at the
College of the Sequoias just up the road here, and I want
to thank the panel for their patience today. I'll learn
to get here earlier next time.

First of all, I'd like to have you all realize if
you've not visited this area before, you're in the center
of agriculture. You've got the World Expo right here,
across the street the ag commissioner's office, and UC
extension next to that. Ag tech, which does all the
energy kinds of things for agriculture. A mile south is
the UC veterinarian teaching medical center. And in 2012
about a mile across the field here will be the new College
of the Sequoias agriculture campus. We've been farming
that with students for the last five years and we feel
that these young people in the blue jackets here are what
the vision of agriculture will be in 2030. It's going to
take their ideas to solve all the issues that you've heard here today, and they're very important.

I gave you a brochure about AB1480. There are a lot of huge issues here that you face today. I'm going to give you one simple quick solution. Call Jose Millan at the California Community College Chancellor's office and take some of those dollars that Governor Schwarzenegger, the 58 million he's given to community colleges for workforce development, and put agriculture as one of those top priorities, because right now agriculture is not even on the radar screen in terms of all the good things that the CTE dollars are doing. I happen to know that because we've got -- received several grants here at COS. We've got alternate energy programs, we have career pathway programs, we have garden projects teaming with Tulare County Farm Bureau. And so when we look at all those opportunities in agriculture, the key is going to be on that foundation of education.

So those curriculum standards, criteria for community colleges, all it will take is the Board to contact the chancellor's office and say, hey, you need to put agriculture on the radar screen and you need to appropriate some of those dollars to agriculture education at the community college level.

We are the most flexible portion and the work
horse of workforce training in California. Last summer we
did a farm worker ESL program, we've done nutrition
programs, we've done parenting programs, and so we are
training two million people in California for those jobs
out there in agriculture and other industries.

And so I want to thank you all for being here
today. That's all the time I'm going to take. But I
think it's important that we give community college
agriculture programs the emphasis and the tools for them
to provide that training for these young people, whether
they're going to a community college, to the University of
California, to the California State University system, but
education is going to be the key.

Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Larry, before you sit down,
just a quick clarification and also a quick request.
Secretary Bradshaw, our Labor Secretary, as well
as Secretary Chrisman, we've been working very closely
together. We recognize that the community college system
has a wonderful role to play, and one of the things that
Secretary Bradshaw has said forever is that -- and they
did quite a bit of good work in this, is that agriculture
needs to be a career of first choice, not a career of last
choice. And in doing that, they really do. And we're all
very excited about how that can take place; that if you
enter agriculture, whether it's a farm worker or anywhere
along the ag food chain, that there's a welcoming hand
that helps you up as far as you can go with your
abilities, with your desire and ambition within this
enormous ag chain of employment, which is really one-tenth
of the employment in the state.

And so if you have a chance to put together some
of those thoughts that you just presented --

MR. DUTTO: Yes.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: -- in a more formalized way
and certainly submit them along with any other friends
from your arena, we'd love to see that. And that's the
kind of thing that gives us a chance to build upon where
we're headed here into 2030. So I'd certainly appreciate
that.

MR. DUTTO: I'll be glad to do that and I will
submit it.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up speaker 42, Mark
Hess. And after that will be speaker 43, Edie Jessup.

MR. HESS: Good afternoon. My name is Mark Hess.

I come to you as another educator who's interested in
agriculture. My career in agriculture began in the 1970s
in Fullerton, California, in Orange County. I was an FFA
member there. I got to serve with several of the Dooleys
with the state, the state FFA organization over the years, and Cal Dooley is one of our own politicians here in the southern California area, and he has since retired from that area. But he and I were on the State Executive Committee together back in 1973, 1974.

As I'd like to speak to you today, a lot of folks have alluded to or very well covered, these young ladies to my left have very eloquently covered the FFA area, and it's of vital importance that we still educate people in agriculture in the State of California.

In our own community in Porterville, California, we have seen a great decrease in the amount of resources devoted to agriculture education. There has even been talk in recent years of losing our agriculture education facilities. In addition to that, the lack of support from the general education area, and I know you folks are not directly endorsing that and you're not really an education board, but it is very, very important.

All of the young people that we can draw to agriculture as part of our culture, it is as important as music, it is as important as art. We have wonderful new schools that they call charter schools where boys and girls are able to take electives where they can emphasize their interest in other areas of human culture, art, economics, science, and yet we very, very few times offer
agriculture as one of those alternatives as a first choice for a career.

I don't want to reiterate or repeat the other things that Mr. Mendes has said or these young ladies, they very adequately covered the topic, but I think it's of absolute vital importance that we draw young people back into this industry and make them realize the importance and the pride that they can instill in other people in their community by becoming involved in with the production of food and to really bring forth the vitality that California has to offer and the things that we can grow for folks here and other places.

Thank you so much for giving me that opportunity, and I appreciate your time.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.
SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you. Do you know Jim Bailey?

MR. HESS: I do.
SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Just saw him a couple days ago.

MR. HESS: Sunny Hills FFA. His girls were not allowed in FFA, they went to my high school, they were in 4H. That was when -- he was the last chapter in California that allowed girls into FFA, they didn't do it until Mr. Bailey left, and his girls never got to be in
FFA because he said there are no girls in FFA. If I'm not mistaken in my section, that was the last chapter, the last chapter in the Orange section, the last chapter that allowed girls in FFA in the State of California was Sunny Hills, not Fullerton, but Sunny Hills.

BOARD MEMBER DOOLEY: I said this yesterday and I've got to say it today. I'm the guy in 1969 who offered the charter amendment at the national convention to allow women to be members of FFA.

MR. HESS: And I don't know if you recall, sir, but you also spoke at my chapter FFA meeting one year as a state officer and encouraged me to become a regional president in the southwestern region, and that's how I continued my career in ag.

BOARD MEMBER DOOLEY: Well, I'm sorry, I don't remember that; it was a year or two ago.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If he were still an attorney, he'd send you a bill.

BOARD MEMBER MEYERS: I have a question. Do you receive any support financially and otherwise from private enterprise?

MR. DUTTO: Say again, sir.

BOARD MEMBER MEYERS: Do you receive any support either financially or otherwise from private enterprise for your educational processes, whether it be FFA or in...
MR. DUTTO: There is a partnership in many schools, in many FFA chapters throughout the state including here in Tulare County. I reside in Tulare County. We're also small livestock producers in addition to being educators. Unfortunately, with the NCLB program, No Child Left Behind Program, I'm afraid there's also been no room for culture program.

In the low-performing schools that we have in our area in Tulare County, especially on that end of the county where we come from, many of these school garden and other programs that would be supported by private enterprise have been suspended because of the classroom time that would be required away from that standards-based education. And we have seen many of our supplementary programs dissolve because they do not -- they do not forward a standard within the framework of the State of California to go toward the scores on the state test. And so we're losing that support.

MR. MILLER: I have to comment. I know the Ag in the Classroom has put a lot of standards for that in the farm bureau, except that the regular education community is still unaware of that, and it's time consuming they say, you will do this, this, and this, and so many of the programs are set programs, this is your time, this is what
you teach, and any others get pushed out of the way. But I do know that the Ag in the Classroom program farm bureau put a lot of standards out there, but it's just very hard to get the regular education community to look at this and say, okay, how do we integrate this, so it gets pushed out the door.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Please recognize we've got speakers that have been hanging around a long time and might want to talk about some additional things. Let me suggest we go ahead through the list and then check in.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: That's right.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: If we have any further comment, we'll take it at the end.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

MS. JESSUP: Thank you. My name is Edie Jessup, and I work with Fresno Metro Ministry, and we are a social justice organization. I primarily work on a hunger and nutrition program and work on obesity prevention work here in the valley.

I want to say that I endorse the 36 goals of sustainability presented by the Roots of Change organization, and I have had discussion with the Secretary around that. And I believe that those areas of health, adaptability, research, education, and equity are primarily the areas of vision that need to be addressed in
I have a couple of other things though that I want to say to you. Equity is really the part of it that catches me. And it is very concerning to me that you all do not look like California and the California farmers that I know in Fresno. We farm in over a hundred languages, and the vitality of agriculture, I believe is coming from refugee and immigrant farmers. And the kinds of new crops that we are developing and doing here in the valley are not represented here today. And it's very concerning to me, and I hope that there will be another opportunity to have that discussion with really good headset equipment and the ability to hear from those people who are farming small farming and local farming.

I also want to say that the central valley produces cheap food for this nation, and that support does not return back here to the valley. I would very much like to look at the continuum of that and have our state also advocate for federal response to that.

I would like to see the Agriculture Department work with Department of Human Services and make sure that everyone who is eligible for food stamps in this state is enrolled in that program, because that is one way to balance the cheap food that we're providing for the nation where we are in a situation and almost a disaster.
situations here in terms of people being able to eat. And so that is a really critical thing to me.

I don't know when we changed from agriculture to agribusiness. It is really upsetting to me that we are not talking about agriculture as culture, and we all need to eat, and unfortunately here in the valley, we have too many people who cannot eat. Our food banks are empty, and we're facing a disaster like a freeze with the drought this summer, and the programs that are supposed to help with that are not going to get here in time. And I am very concerned about what is happening here in the valley because of that. So food stamps and enrollment by everyone that is eligible for that program.

I think that looking at the health benefits, our specialty crops need to be our priority in any vision for the future because that is going to be the solution to the chronic disease crisis that we are also facing at this time. Our kids are growing up unhealthy. They're going to die before we do because of the chronic disease they are developing. And this is business, again, for our agriculture community, seeing that our schools are getting the best and most local produce for our kids to eat, seeing that all kids eat breakfast and lunch at school. If they don't have those opportunities and they aren't getting good food, local food, we are going to be in real
trouble I'm afraid.

I think that any vision for California's agriculture needs to create a standard that looks at what the results of our agriculture are. And so as we're looking about the degradation of our air and our water and our land, we need to look at those as being the results of our agriculture and we need to really turn that around.

We human beings started living in cities on this earth 6,000 years ago, and we did it because our farming got so good that not everybody had to spend all their time growing food. Farmers could raise enough food to feed themselves and lots of other people too. So some people began to specialize in making cloth and others in making pottery and building buildings. We created cities as a result of good farming.

Some of the oldest cities in the world were in Egypt, and from the Egyptian Book of the Dead, here is a partial list of things a citizen was not supposed to do: One is not to cheat poor people. One is not to take land from a neighbor. One is not to take milk away from children. One is not to waste water. From 6,000 years ago, some pretty good recommendations about farming and about what we need to do to live well in our cities.

And we have created a perfect storm here in the valley, lack of food, lack of housing, lack of health
care, lack of clean air to breathe and lack of clean water to drink. Right here in Fresno in the central valley your vision of ag needs to be a repair of our food system.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up speaker 44, Silas Shawer. After that will be speaker 45, Lupe Martinez.

MR. SHAWER: Hello, good afternoon. My name is Silas Shawer. I work with the California Rural Legal Assistance in Fresno and I do a lot of work throughout the central valley. And my work particularly is focusing on health and safety issues for farm workers and in farm worker communities. And I want to talk a little bit about some of the enforcement issues and health and safety regulations.

And one thing, thinking about 2030, one of the speakers before, Timoteo, mentioned the fact that a lot of farm workers will be retiring and thinking about retirement by 2030. And I'm wondering what these people are going to be retiring with. We know that farm workers are making minimum wage, there are practically no farm workers who receive any health care benefits, I've never heard of a farm worker with a retirement plan. And so what are these -- what does this retirement look for?

We're also looking at an industry that is one of the most dangerous in the country, that has some of the
highest rates of injury. And so clearly the health issues for farm workers, people are going to be retiring unhealthy, people are going to be retiring with no financial support. And, hopefully, maybe they have some family members who have been able to get out of the industry and get into something else, or perhaps move up, which is very rare for many farm workers.

And I think there are a whole list of factors that contribute to this, but one that I think of that hasn't been talked about a lot is -- we've talked about the disconnect between the public and their food source and agriculture, but we've seen over quite a bit of time a disconnect between the growers and the farm workers because we have a huge farm labor contractor system.

Somebody mentioned earlier that a lot of times farm workers do not even know who they're working for, which could mean that a grower is hiring a contractor who could be hiring some foreperson who's calling somebody else to, you know, bring a group of people over to work. And so workers don't get paid, workers don't have bathrooms, workers don't have water, workers do not have shade, workers do not have the proper tools, workers do not have the proper training; and yet they don't even know who to go to get those things fixed.

And the way the contractor system works, the
grower is not responsible for that, it's whoever the employer tends to be is responsible for meeting these regulations. And an issue that we see all the time, which I think is -- which is very frustrating to me is that there is a very high level of retaliation. I mean, as you all know, it's at-will employment, you know, you fire someone whenever you want. And so workers are extremely afraid to make a complaint because the norm is, unfortunately, as much as I try to tell people it's illegal to retaliate against you for complaining about health and safety issue, if you complain you're going to get fired.

And workers have, you know, very little recourse. You can do a complaint with the state. It takes about two years for them to do an investigation. And the burden is really on the employee to prove an unlawful motive by the employer, not a very easy thing to do.

And, you know, people say we need more enforcement from Cal OSHA. Clearly, that's true. All you need to do is drive around in the fields, and if you start counting workers and seeing looking for bathrooms or checking water, seeing if there's shade available, it's just not there, because I think the growers who have more resources to provide the infrastructure and shade and make sure -- and provide the training and make sure the
workplace is safe, they're not the employer anymore, so
it's not their responsibility. They're moving down to
contractors and going to smaller businesses that are
having to bear the costs, and a lot of times they won't
do -- they're just not going to do it because it's cheaper
for them to take their chances at getting caught. And if
they get caught, a lot of times they disappear, lose their
license, and have a family member get their license and
keep working. And so it's really a system that's flawed.
And farm workers do not have -- many times do not have the
power to address it.
So I think looking at a vision, what I would like
to see is an industry where farm workers know who they're
working for, where they have a relationship with their
employers, where they have health benefits, where they can
work with their employer in addressing health issues and
making sure the work environment is a safer place. And
unfortunately, for many reasons that is the reality for
very, very few farm workers.
Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thanks for your help today,
Silas, also. Thanks a lot.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up speaker number 45,
Lupe Martinez. After that will be speaker 46, Andrew
Posado.
MR. MARTINEZ: My name is Lupe Martinez. I work for Censure on Race Poverty and the Environment. I've been a farm worker most of my life. And so I thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to you. And I know it's getting really late and we're the last ones here, so I'm going to try and sum up since a lot of it has already been said, what I wanted to talk about, so I'll try to do a summary of what I had because I had quite a bit to talk about.

But one of the visions that I would love to see is, of course, universal health care for the farm workers, of course. And we should try to see if there's a way that we can look at different strategies, including perhaps tax credits for growers offering them health insurance to the farm workers, promoting perhaps increase by national U.S.-Mexico coverage and expanding the pool of culturally competent health care providers serving the farm workers in the U.S. In the long term, of course, universal health care should be adopted and be available to all the residents regardless of whether they're documented or undocumented, whomever it is, but is in need of medical care.

Towards the other vision is that we have worker health and safety conditions and safe working conditions for the farm workers, and to have a more sustainable food
Certainly would love to see the different agencies such as OSHA and, you know, enforcing the laws. Also what I'd love to see at some point is the reduction of the use of pesticides, which has been a culprit in so many things in my lifetime.

I was responsible in exposing the situation of the cancer cluster in McFarland. Then we realized there was another issue, and that happened in Rosemont. And then we have another one, and that was in Fowler. And then the next one was in Earlimart. And I can continue on and on and just seeing those things.

And it's been very difficult as a farm worker and then being able to educate somewhat, not a formal education, but educate myself through life and the experiences and seeing that we have some real difficulties here with chemicals.

We need to make sure that somewhere along the line, I'd like to see that perhaps by 2030, and I'm not going to be around, but hopefully these young women will be the ones who will not have to endure any of these things that I just mentioned that happened in McFarland and all these other communities, and that we'll eliminate Class I and Class II pesticides, period.

Now, the other thing is healthy agriculture communities. Given that there's so many farm workers that
are now long-term permanent residents of California, and
there has been a big change from the time of my parents,
myself as a young worker migrating back into the famous
state of Texas, because when you ask anybody in
agriculture where we're from, they were either from Texas
or they were from (unintelligible).

And so seeing that we have those increases of
farm workers who are not migrating as heavily as it used
to be, that certainly my vision would be that we have farm
worker housing, safe and affordable transportation, that
we don't have incidents as we've had in the past where
vans full of farm workers die as a result because we don't
have that safe transportation, and, of course, that we
establish community centers providing social services and
recreational activities and promoting increased civic
engagements in communities organizing activities among the
farm workers.

However, understanding, and as I mentioned being
a farm worker, I've also seen some other things that
plague the industry. And perhaps I have more questions
than suggestions or recommendations.

Certainly few of the things that have created a
phenomena over the years, and I don't know whether it is
reversible or not, and has been the fact that big
conglomerates, corporations, oil companies -- I used to
work for an oil company who was in the industry, in the ag industry, and saw that they started to choose to go abroad, go to other countries for cheap labor, for the resources and to exploit those resources.

So we have a phenomena that has taken place at this point as a creation of what has transpired because of the same industry who has done this, and so now we have global competition; and we're asking ourselves, why are we allowing food to come from somewhere else. And the fact that California where at one time used to, not only the state, but fed the nation and other countries, we're lucky that we're feeding ourselves in the state in reality when we really look at it. So knowing that that has been a real problem, we need to start looking at the NAFTA, the imports, the exports, and we need to start really looking at protection of what we have here. The small farmers who cannot go abroad, the family farms, which that is probably not even a word anymore, which is out of our context here.

In conclusion then, I think what we need to do is to partner up, we need to have farm workers at the table, not serving the table, but being at the table, at the table, we need to make sure that growers are also willing to reverse that phenomena that I'm talking about, and also that CDFA take a different role of looking at the national policies that have impacted California and itself.
And so I thank you for allowing me to give you my comments and I appreciate it.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 46, Andrew Cosado. Then we have speaker 47 -- sorry, speaker 48, Harry Peck. And speaker 49, Mark Dias.

Andrew Cosado? Going, going, gone. Andrew Cosado?

Harry Peck?

I think we have our clean-up batter, Martin Dias.

MR. PECK: Thank you for your time and opportunity to talk to somebody else rather than preaching to the choir. Mr. Dooley, we go way back. My name is Harry Peck. I've lived in this community for 35 years in the industry I've been involved, and, yes, I work for one of the big chemical companies. All the issues that were addressed today are accurate and key.

One thing before I forget, Mr. Meyers, to address your question about the environment or the enterprise projects, my company supplied Cochran High School and COS with cotton seed last year in encouraging those projects.

That said, we do have an issue with water, regulations, that are coming down from the farm workers. Some of the things that I've heard here today are
bothersome from the standpoint of regulation of illegal pesticides being used. We are so tightly regulated in this state than anywhere else in the world. That allows us to have the safest food and the cheapest food of any place in the world.

More recently, the last couple months, I've heard more discussion about the cost of food going up. Part of it is an impact of production here, the prices going up to be exported to other countries where their diets are changing, more to meat, chicken, to feed the chickens so they can increase or develop their menu and what is going on.

One of the things, being a chemical manufacturer, we don't get credit for the materials that are organic. Everything that we sell is a pesticide from the standpoint of the public and the lack of understanding. Some people in Sacramento have a clue, a lot of them don't. Discussions that I've had with some of the legislators in Sacramento, scary. I talked to one person that is employed in the Capitol, got into a discussion about where he lived. And he lived on a lake north of Sacramento. There are no lakes north of Sacramento, it's rice fields. Well, this is a manmade lake. I thought, that's fine.

I said, what are you going to do when that lake goes dry? He said, that won't happen. The developer cut
a deal with the water district to allow that lake to be
maintained if all the homeowners paid a dollar a year.

The issues of John, the west side farmer, the
Endangered Species Act, that is a little out of whack. At
what point in time does the California farmer go on the
Endangered Species Act list? Because what's happening is
they're being forced out of business. Who creates the job
for the farm workers? The revenues that are developed,
the research that goes into -- the students coming out of
school to work for a chemical company. We're not able to
produce the food in the abundance that we are without the
programs we're using. Yes, we'd like to see everything
organic, but it can't be done. There are niche markets
for those areas. Conventional has to go into play on a
consistent basis.

And unless we all get it together, the vision
that I have for agriculture in the State of California in
2030, not going to be here. There will be no need for
farm workers. We won't have an air pollution problem
because there will be no trucks because they're getting
regulated out.

One of the things that came to mind on the Air
Resources Board, that we have to reduce VOCs, carbon
emissions, all these sorts of things because they're
polluted, or created right here. In recent weeks this
valley has been full of smoke from a fire. Where was the fire in the valley? Wasn't here, but we're getting credit, we the valley are getting credit for these issues that are happening in the valley. We can't do anything about it other than make farmers buy new trucks, retrofit engines to reduce pollutions that basically are not happening here with the California farmer, but he's getting brought into this whole mix because he has an industry that's high profile.

Thank you for your time.

FACILITATOR PENNY: Let me ask, is Martin Dias here? Martin Dias was last on the speaker list.

So as I turn now the microphone and the meeting back over to the Secretary and the President, I want to thank all of you for your comments and for hanging in there. The people who are now in the room have hung in there for a long time to hear a wide array of comments. So as facilitator, I thank you very much, and I turn it back over to the Secretary and the President.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: First, any comments from the Board Members? Questions?

Mr. Secretary, any comments?

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I'm speechless.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: We have heard 90 speakers in the last two days, and there are many common threads.
running through all of this testimony; the regulatory
cclimate, farm worker issues, the education issue, equity,
other environmental issues. This is going to be very
interesting when we put all of this together. But we
cannot express our thanks enough for all of you attending.
The road show continues the 7th in Oxnard, the
evening of the 7th especially for our farm worker
communities. So please tell your friends and neighbors
that that's happening. 8th in Escondido. August 28th --
SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Still working on that.
PRESIDENT MONTNA: Well, we're working on where
the Board meeting is going to be. We had some conflicts.
And the Board, again, spends a large part of their time to
get this completed at the Secretary's request. So again,
website is --
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDDY: Thank you, Al. Again,
all written, all comments can be submitted online to
CDFA's website which is cdfa.ca.gov/agvision. And online
as well you'll find transcripts from our previous
meetings. There is probably about a two-week delay until
we actually get the transcript, but once we do receive it,
those are posted online for review. And both Sacramento
and the Redding sessions are online currently.
SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I've got one more thing to
do.
Although I don't think those individuals are still in the room, Patricia Stever from the County Farm Bureau that helped put this together as well as Gary Kunkel, who really helped a lot, he's the ag commissioner from Tulare County. Also, Dave Robinson was here, and I failed to mention him for the record. And he's ag commissioner as well from Merced. All these ag commissioners work very closely with our Department. And Kern County. Ruben, I'm sorry. Also, thank you for being here. My apologies on that. I was kind of rambling on here.

The partnership that we have with the ag commissioners with every county with our Department is critical to the future of ag in this state; so many thanks to the counties that support these ag commissioners, because they are employees of the counties, appointed by the counties, and they're as big a part of the resource base of what agriculture has to be as anything that goes on. And we're very unique in the country because we're the only state in the country that has this kind of system. And it doesn't get mentioned enough to you and the rest of the gang, Ruben, but thanks so much for all you do.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: And we can't do without them.

So thank you.
Again, thank you very much.

This is still a Board Meeting. So I would --

BOARD MEMBER ROSS: Motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: You've all had parliamentary procedure. Was that an order there? And a second from Tom. Any objection to adjournment? We stand adjourned.

Thank you very much.

(Thereupon, the July 2, 2008, California Department of Food and Agriculture Vision Listening Session was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, RICHARD FRIANT, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I recorded the foregoing California Department of Food and Agriculture California Farm Bill Listening Session; that thereafter the recording was transcribed.

I further certify that I am not counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said Listening Session, or in any way interested in the outcome of said Listening Session.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of July, 2008.

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