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January 4, 2016

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President Soraya M. Coley, Ph.D
Office of the President
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
3801 West Temple Avenue
Pomona, CA 91768

Dear Dr. Coley:

Congratulations on your one year anniversary as president of Cal Poly Pomona. We greatly appreciate the leadership and vision that you have brought to the campus and look forward to working with you in the future. As the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, it is our role to address key agricultural issues that are of importance to California's farmers, ranchers, community stakeholders and residents.

One issue that has been brought to our attention is the potential development of agricultural land on the Cal Poly campus, commonly referred to as the Spadra Farm. As all parties involved seek a collaborative solution to balance the University's fiscal realities with the compelling need to protect agricultural land, maintain a "learn by doing" culture and preserve opportunities to train future farmers with hands on experience, we are hopeful that a positive resolution will occur.

We want to further recognize student leadership efforts to engage in a constructive way to preserve University farmland for future generations. As we encourage more individuals to explore careers in agriculture, it is reassuring to see students, like those that addressed the State Board in December, be engaged in discussions on land use issues, agricultural advocacy and community outreach. These are important traits for our future leaders and the students were articulate and professional in their presentations.

Saving productive farmland – that serves as a hands-on learning laboratory for students – within a highly urbanized area presents you, the faculty, staff and students of Cal Poly Pomona a unique opportunity. We remain hopeful that Spadra Farm will continue its legacy of agricultural education and research for future generations.

Sincerely,

Craig McNamara
President

