



Craig McNamara
Board President
Owner, Sierra Orchards

June 10, 2014

Joshua Eddy
Executive Director

The Honorable Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ashley Boren
Executive Director
Sustainable Conservation

Charles Boyer, Dean
Jordan College of
Agricultural Sciences,
California State
University, Fresno

Dear Governor Brown:

The State Board of Food and Agriculture has had a series of meetings focused on your Water Action Plan, response to the drought and efforts to successfully develop comprehensive groundwater legislation. I write to inform you of an action taken by the Board with respect to pending groundwater legislative proposals.

Donald Bransford, Owner
Bransford Farms

The Board supports groundwater legislation constructed around the following criteria:

Don Cameron,
General Manager,
Terranova Ranch, Inc.

- Empowerment of local agencies to effectively and sustainably manage the groundwater resources in critically over-drafted basins around the state and principally in the Central Valley.
- Establishment of a clear role for the Department of Water Resources to provide technical assistance to local groundwater management agencies and measure progress toward sustainable management objectives.
- Creation of a finely crafted, limited role of oversight for the State Water Resources Control Board that includes clear milestones and carefully developed criteria for state intervention in the event no local agencies are tasked with responsibility for managing groundwater or when local agencies fail to achieve important milestones along the way to sustainability.

Nancy Casady
General Manager
Ocean Beach People's
Organic Food Co-Op

Dan Dooley
Vice President,
University of California

Ben Drake, President
Drake Enterprises

Michael Gallo, Co-owner
Joseph Gallo Farms

Any legislation developed or supported by the Administration must recognize that circumstances among and between groundwater basins vary and that management is best left to local agencies. Such legislation should also minimize costs and uncertainty for water users and include streamlined and fair processes for resolving conflicts that arise from new regulations.

Eric Holst,
Senior Director,
Environmental Defense
Fund

Bryce Lundberg,
Vice President,
Lundberg Family Farms

Governor, it is very important for you to make clear that your interest in groundwater legislation is only a part of an overarching strategy to implement all of the features of your Water Action Plan, including, but not limited to, developing appropriate additional storage, improving and rationalizing Delta operations and developing appropriate funding mechanisms to achieve your objectives. The Board understands the urgency of passing a bond that addresses these issues and we stand ready to assist you in this effort.

Martha Montoya,
President,
Los Kitos Produce

Miles Reiter,
Chairman and CEO,
Driscoll Strawberry
Associates, Inc.

Sincerely,

Joy Sterling, CEO
Iron Horse Vineyards

Craig McNamara
President

Rodney Taylor, Director,
Riverside Unified School
District

cc: Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture

