May 15, 2018

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

Dear Governor Brown:

Last year, this Board recommended to CDFA Secretary Karen Ross the need to convene a forum of water authorities, agricultural organizations, regulators and other stakeholders to address groundwater recharge policies of state. I’m happy to report that this forum occurred last November and included the cooperation of multiple state agencies and stakeholders.

Since this forum took place, your State Board of Food and Agriculture has worked with various agency program staff and stakeholders to develop the enclosed list of recommendations related to ‘Managed Groundwater Recharge to Support Sustainable Water Management.’ These recommendations reflect the key constraints we heard at the forum and responds to the needs of a diverse stakeholder base.

Under your leadership, California has made significant strides in addressing a multitude of water issues and continues to make progress in achieving the goals of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the California Water Action Plan. We are hopeful these recommendations can assist your Administration in partnering with farmers and ranchers, cities and counties, as well as NGOs and GSAs in continuing to expand groundwater recharge opportunities in the state.

I personally know the benefits and needs related to on-farm groundwater recharge and believe these recommendations will serve our state well.

Sincerely,

Don J. Cameron
President

cc: Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Matthew Rodriquez, California Environmental Protection Agency
John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency
Felicia Marcus, State Water Resources Control Board
Karla Nemeth, California Department of Water Resources
Keely Bosler, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.