



Don J. Cameron  
Board President  
General Manager,  
Terranova Ranch, Inc.

May 26, 2021

Joshua Eddy  
Executive Director

Secretary David Kim  
California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi  
VP & Chief Operating  
Officer for Pacific Asian  
Consortium in  
Employment

Dear Secretary Kim:

Ashley Boren  
Executive Director,  
Sustainable Conservation

At a recent meeting of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture it was brought to the Board's attention the recent challenges regarding goods movement within the state, primarily as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. California's overall freight mobility is strained with severe delays, shortages and capacity issues which is mostly attributed to the unprecedented surge of commercial imports. One issue of importance within California's agriculture sector where CalSTA may be of assistance, is the consideration of a temporary special permit for overweight harvest trucking.

Donald Bransford, Owner,  
Bransford Farms

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

California's current allowable maximum gross weight limit is 80,000lbs. A temporary special permit increase for harvest trucking to 88,000lbs. would help to address current challenges related to labor and availability. This increase would help to minimize harvest loss and overall food waste while providing critical support during a short harvest window. California's food production depends on long term seasonal drivers (6-7 months) and short term drivers that work the harvest period for 90 to 100 days. With current availability challenges, a temporary increase in allowable maximum gross weight would greatly help to accommodate the lack of projected trucking availability in the harvest window (June – August). Consideration of this flexibility addresses a direct need for the upcoming harvest.

Helene Dillard, Dean  
College of Agricultural and  
Environmental Sciences  
at the University of  
California, Davis

Michael Gallo, Co-owner  
Joseph Gallo Farms

Crystal Hayling,  
Executive Director,  
The Libra Foundation

Eric Holst, Senior Director,  
Environmental Defense  
Fund

Jeff Huckaby, President  
Grimmway Farms

Last year CalSTA provided flexibility on overweight permits for essential goods as part of COVID-19 response. Food and Agriculture is also an essential industry which is currently being impacted by freight and supply delays also related to the pandemic. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Bryce Lundberg,  
Vice President,  
Lundberg Family Farms

Martha Montoya,  
President,  
Los Kitos Produce

Joy Sterling, CEO  
Iron Horse Vineyards

Sincerely,

Don Cameron

Andrew J. Thulin, Dean  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environmental  
Sciences, California  
Polytechnic State  
University

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom  
Karen Ross, Department of Food and Agriculture  
Dee Dee Myers, Office of Business & Economic Development

Christopher Valadez,  
President, Grower Shipper  
Association of Central  
California

