

I do have a vision for California agriculture, as a native Californian who grew up in agriculture. I also have a understanding of what I believe will be the biggest challenge in achieving that vision and feeding as many people as we can. The public's perception of agriculture has changed drastically in the last 20 years or so, and needs to change soon or by 2030 I do not think California will be able to feed its own population, let alone others.

There are several "must haves" in an Ag Vision for California, but two I will talk about now and would like to address is the need to preserve prime farm land **no matter what**, and the need to allow more housing on small farms. Small farms are becoming more labor intensive again and people do not want to live and raise children in an isolated setting. The high cost of fertilizer and pesticides can be alleviated in part through group labor and organic farms.

This said, the housing for this group labor should be placed on marginal or less productive land if at all possible. All productive, quality farmland should be preserved at all costs! This should be the essence of any Vision statement. Forget housing tracts, forget viewsheds, forget anything else except safety. Unless our world is going to limit population growth, Californial farmland is very, very valuable. I believe we need to work together to preserve and enhance its quality and quantity.

-Ruel Czach