

PUBLIC MEETING
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER
4500 S. LASPINA STREET
TULARE, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2008
10:00 A.M.

Reported by:
Richard Friant

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 BOARD MEMBERS

3 Al Montna, President

4 Ann Bacchetti-Silva

5 Ashley Boren

6 Thomas Deerdorff

7 Dan Dooley

8 Luawanna Hallstrom

9 Marvin Meyers

10 Karen Ross

11 Donald Valpredo

12

13 STAFF

14 A.G. Kawamura, Secretary

15 Joshua Eddy, Executive Director

16 Michael Smith

17 Nancy Lungren

18 Robert Tse

19 Shawn Cooper

20 Allison Heers

21 Kyle Caetano

22

23 FACILITATOR

24 Carolyn Penny

25

- 1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Continued)
- 2 Richard Matoian, Western Pistachio Association
- 3 Sandy Beals, Food Link, Tulare County
- 4 Mike Darnell, American Farmland Trust
- 5 Diana Westmoreland-Pedrozo, Merced County Farm Bureau
- 6 Barry Bedwell, California Grape and Tree Fruit League
- 7 Jean OKuye, Valley Land Alliance
- 8 Shirley Batchman, California Citrus Mutual
- 9 Ted Batkin, California Citrus Research Board, California
10 Invasive Pest Coalition
- 11 Ed Needham, Tulare County Farm Bureau
- 12 Jennifer Hernandez, California Rural Legal Assistance
13 Foundation
- 14 Jesus Quevedo, Vecinos Unidos
- 15 Kathy Kellison, Partners for Sustainable Pollination
- 16 Alicia Rios, California Cinters for International Trade
17 Development
- 18 Patricia Stever, Tulare County Farm Bureau
- 19 Amy Heers, Future Farmers of America
- 20 Mikaela Serafin, Future Farmers of America
- 21 Brin Hanna, Ag Biomass Council
- 22 Teresa DeAnda
- 23 Jeff Rasmussen, Western Farm Service
- 24 Argelia Flores, Poder Popular
- 25 Holly King, Great Valley Center
- Laurie Schwaller

1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Continued)

- 2 Carol Chandler
- 3 Ralph Mendes
- 4 Jim Sullins
- 5 John Harris
- 6 Karri Hammerstrom, California Women for Agriculture
- 7 Chuck Tarbell, Tulare County Cattlemen's Association
- 8 Manuela Gonzales, Dolores Huerta Foundation
- 9 Paola Fernandez, Dolores Huerta Foundation
- 10 Maria Hernandez, Dolores Huerta Foundation
- 11 Eva Ramirez, Dolores Huerta Foundation
- 12 Enfrocina Ordaz, Dolores Huerta Foundation
- 13 Jose Lara
- 14 Maria Yopez, Dolores Huerta Foundation
- 15 Timoteo Prado, Poder Popular
- 16 Francis Macias, Dolores Huerta Foundation
- 17 John Miller
- 18 Glenn Anderson
- 19 Larry Dutto, College of the Sequoias
- 20 Mark Hess
- 21 Edie Jessup, Fresno Metro Ministry
- 22 Silas Shower, California Rural Legal Assistance
- 23 Lupe Martinez, Censure on Race Poverty and the Environment
- 24 Harry Peck
- 25

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Ladies and gentlemen, in just
3 a moment we'll begin our program. The Board has a little
4 business; we need to have a monthly board meeting. This
5 will be a very short board meeting to start this session,
6 and then we will proceed with our listening session.

7 So we have over 50 speakers registered.
8 Yesterday we had 38 in San Luis Obispo, something less
9 than that in Redding, something less than that in
10 Sacramento; we've had three sessions. So we'll define the
11 rules for you when we get that going and we'll keep it as
12 efficient and allow everyone sufficient time hopefully,
13 but as efficient as we can to get through the day in an
14 orderly fashion.

15 With that, I'd like to call the Board meeting to
16 order. I'd like to ask Dan Dooley to please lead us in
17 the Pledge of Allegiance.

18 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited
19 by all.)

20 PRESIDENT MONTNA: The State Board of Food and
21 Agriculture is made up of 15 representatives from
22 agriculture and the public appointed by the Governor for
23 three-year terms, and we shall advise the Governor and the
24 Secretary on agriculture policy. And we have monthly
25 board meetings usually around the State of California on

1 whatever the hot ag issue of the day is.

2 Now, it's time for roll call, but rather than
3 have Josh Eddy, our Executive Director, call, I'd like
4 each director to please tell folks who you are, your
5 affiliation, and length of time on the Board, please.

6 Starting with Tom. We apologize, we only have
7 one mic, so we're keeping the cost down, we don't have a
8 budget.

9 BOARD MEMBER DEARDORFF: Good morning, I'm Tom
10 Deardorff from Deardorff Family Farms. We're based out of
11 Ventura County. We're row crops, celery, lettuce, tomato
12 grower over in the central coast. I've been on the Board
13 now for a year and a half.

14 BOARD MEMBER MEYERS: Marvin Meyers. I'm a west
15 side grower up outside of Fresno County. We grow
16 diversified crops, mostly almonds. I've been on the Board
17 for a long time. I don't know how long I've been on the
18 Board. It seems like a long time. Thank you.

19 BOARD MEMBER BOREN: I'm Ashley Boren. I am the
20 Executive Director of Sustainable Conservation. We're a
21 nonprofit environmental organization that partners with
22 agriculture and other businesses to find solutions that
23 make environmental and economic sense. And I am just
24 starting my second three-year term.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDDY: Hello. I'm Josh Eddy,

1 the Executive Director of the State Board of Food and
2 Agriculture.

3 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Al Montna, a rice farmer from
4 the University of California. It's my second term on the
5 Board, once in the Wilson administration. I've been
6 President of the Board since March of '05.

7 This gentleman, Secretary Kawamura, needs no
8 introduction, and we'll be hearing from him in a moment.

9 BOARD MEMBER ROSS: Good morning. It's nice to
10 see so many friends in the audience. I'm Karen Ross, and
11 I'm President of the California Association of Wine Grape
12 Growers. And I feel older than dirt because I can't
13 remember how long I've been on the Board, but I think it's
14 seven or eight years.

15 BOARD MEMBER BACCHETTI-SILVA: Hi. I'm Ann
16 Silva. I'm a dairy farmer from Tracy, so I'm in the
17 heart, I believe, of dairy country. And I'm finishing --
18 I started my fourth year on the Board. And I'm a
19 third-generation dairy farmer. And Karen has taught us
20 all the ropes, this whole Board, so thank you.

21 BOARD MEMBER DOOLEY: I'm Dan Dooley, until
22 December 31st a water lawyer based in Visalia. I'm now
23 the Vice-President of the University of California for
24 Agriculture Natural Resources.

25 BOARD MEMBER VALPREDO: Good morning. My name is

1 Don Valpredo. I'm a vegetable farmer from Bakersfield,
2 California, primarily in onions, carrots and peppers. I
3 want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very
4 happy 4th of July, a great holiday for this country.
5 Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you. As part of the
7 Board meeting, I'll welcome Secretary Kawamura's comments
8 regarding specifically this meeting and any other
9 departmental issues he'd like to bring up as he
10 historically does. I'll follow with my comments, and then
11 we'll start our ag vision session as the content of this
12 meeting.

13 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Do you want to do your
14 approval of minutes first?

15 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Oh, thank you, Mr. Secretary.
16 Yeah, we do have a little business.

17 We have minutes from the May 28th meeting. I'd
18 like a motion.

19 BOARD MEMBER ROSS: Move to approve.

20 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Moved by Karen Ross. Seconded
21 by Ann Silva. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in
22 favor?

23 (Ayes.)

24 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Opposed? Unanimous. Thank
25 you.

1 Mr. Secretary.

2 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Well, good morning,
3 everybody. It's been very exciting to be a part of the ag
4 vision process, which is this idea that we don't have a
5 blueprint, we don't have a plan for agriculture in the
6 State of California that will take us not only next year,
7 five years, but ten, twenty years out as well.

8 Many of you are familiar with the very good work
9 that's being done with the San Joaquin Valley Partnership.
10 And it was during that process over these last four, five
11 years in the San Joaquin Valley Partnership that our
12 Department was engaged -- and I know Holly King is sitting
13 out here someplace -- where our Department was engaged to
14 work with the Great Valley Center and many others to try
15 and help create a plan for the San Joaquin Valley for
16 agriculture. And it was at that time that we all
17 recognized that that's interesting, a plan for San Joaquin
18 Valley would be super because none exists, but wouldn't it
19 also be great to have one for the State of California.
20 And that basically, if you will, is the roots behind where
21 we are today.

22 In addition to that, the very strong roots that
23 come from a very exciting farm bill process that just
24 culminated two weeks ago with the signing of a farm bill
25 that for the very first time really in history is a

1 California friendly farm bill. And that farm bill
2 occurred because of a great working relationship and a
3 coalition building of people here in the State of
4 California across a very broad range of the issue areas,
5 if you will, that helped to say that we really need to
6 plot our own future.

7 Agriculture for many years has, for maybe
8 several, two, three decades has had this wonderful
9 strategy. Every year we're going to negotiate to lose
10 less; that's been the agricultural paradigm, if you will,
11 for the state. And I think everybody would recognize
12 that's not a good strategy to go into the future with for
13 yet another 20, 30 years.

14 And so the process here is to try and do just the
15 opposite; let's create, understand where our natural
16 stakeholders are, let's understand that the future of
17 agriculture is enormously important because without a
18 future, without a plan -- I come from Orange County, and
19 in Orange County where our family has been growing for
20 some 50 years, if you go back just a few more years, 1949,
21 Orange County was the number one agriculture county in
22 this country in terms of economic output. And in the
23 course of my lifetime, one lifetime, you can see what it
24 is today; there's a lot of asphalt. There's a few of us
25 still farming down there, but that's the kind of future

1 you get if there's no planning, if there's no concept for
2 what you want to do in terms of securing the amazing
3 resource that agriculture is. It is a national security
4 component, it's a treasured resource, if you will, but do
5 we know that? And so this process is going to be very
6 important.

7 I just want to thank all of you for being here
8 today, both as listeners and especially those of you who
9 are speakers as well. And our thoughts are going to be
10 around how can we converge all of our resources in this
11 state towards a vision of what agriculture can be.

12 Parallel efforts, parallel thoughts about what
13 agriculture might be are all nice and good, but parallel
14 lines never meet; and if we don't converge this enormous
15 stakeholder base that might be represented in this room
16 today, we'll always be out there kind of moving forward
17 but not necessarily moving forward together.

18 So thank you for being here. It's been an
19 exiting process. I think there's a lot of different ways
20 to look at agriculture. That's natural because
21 agriculture is a very dynamic part of what our society is.

22 So with that, I'm going to hand this back to
23 President Montna.

24 And what I'd also like to do, there's a few
25 guests I'd like to thank right now that are here that are

1 both special guests, but most also just leaders in
2 agriculture. So I know Gary Kunkel is here, ag
3 commissioner from Tulare County; Patricia Stever,
4 Executive Director Tulare County Farm Bureau; Diana
5 Westmoreland-Pedroza, I think you're here, I saw a little
6 while ago, she's the Executive Director of Merced County
7 Farm Bureau; Marilyn Kinoshita is the Deputy Ag
8 Commissioner from Tulare County; Susanna Smith, she's the
9 Office of Assemblymember Bill Maze; we have Ryan Jacobson,
10 who's the Executive Director of the Fresno County Farm
11 Bureau; Cathi Boze, Ag Commissioner of Mariposa County.
12 Cathi, I don't know, did I see you yet? I see Robert
13 Jones is here, Deputy Secretary for the labor agency.
14 There's a special thanks to Patricia Stever for hosting
15 and really helping us organize this. I know Ed Needham is
16 Tulare Farm Bureau President; I know Allan Ishida is up
17 here, elected official; and Mike is also here, I'm sorry
18 on that. Shirley Batchman from Citrus Mutual. We have
19 Tom Birmingham from Westlands Water District; Mark Davis
20 is a USDA rep that's here; and Karri Hammerstrom, the
21 second Vice-President for California Women in Ag is here.

22 I know I've missed many, I know I missed some.
23 So my apologies if I did miss you. But I just appreciate
24 your leadership and all of the rest of you that are here.

25 So now I'm going to hand -- Dave is also here,

1 Dave King is also here from -- you know, sometimes the
2 traveling on the road gets to your head and, Tim, please
3 forgive me. Ag Commissioner as well.

4 So I'm going to give this back to Al. Here you
5 go.

6 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. You
7 can have the mic as long as you wish. You're the man.

8 Wow, it's really great to fill a room up for
9 agriculture in this state. You know, we've held hearings
10 all over this state on every hot-button issue that's
11 brought to us by agriculture. We've never filled a room
12 up like this. So thank you all for taking your time to be
13 part of ag's vision through 2030.

14 The Secretary directed the Board to start this
15 process in March of this year through the Governor. The
16 Governor has great interest in this also. He loves
17 agriculture. And it's going to be your time,
18 agriculture's time and the public's time. And when I say
19 agriculture, that's all segments of agriculture. Time to
20 express your view and have your input on the vision of
21 this industry through 2030.

22 Since I have two daughters that are intimately
23 involved in our business, our family business, it's very
24 interesting to me to carry that business on another --
25 through that time, hopefully another 50 years at a

1 minimum.

2 So it's all in our best interest to put a plan
3 together. This plan is not going to gather dust on a
4 shelf and it's going to be hopefully implemented and put
5 into practice in this state while we still have this great
6 Governor to serve agriculture.

7 So with that, again, I want to thank you all. We
8 have facilitators here. We have Carolyn Penny from UC is
9 going to lead our facilitation. And Carolyn, she's also
10 here -- with Richard Friant over here who helped us in
11 Redding -- to lead the facilitation, to lay the rules out
12 for you and to keep this as efficient a process as
13 possible.

14 Again, thank you all for coming. We really
15 appreciate your taking the time to help us create this
16 document.

17 Carolyn.

18 FACILITATOR PENNY: Good morning, everybody. I'm
19 Carolyn Penny, and I'm from UC Davis Common Ground Center
20 for Cooperative Solutions. I have the pleasure of working
21 with everyone in the room today to help the process work
22 as smoothly as possible. So I'm going to tell you a few
23 things about how it will work, and I look forward to
24 working with everybody in the room.

25 So the purpose of this, today's conversation, is

1 to talk about the vision of California agriculture looking
2 out to the year 2030. So there are four questions to
3 guide your comments. The first is what's your vision for
4 California agriculture by 2030? I encourage you to think
5 creatively; audacious ideas are fine. What will be the
6 biggest challenge in achieving that vision by 2030? How
7 has the public perception changed? And what is a
8 must-have?

9 Each speaker will have up to five minutes. We
10 have a podium here with a microphone. If you use less
11 than five minutes, that is just fine. What we do is ask
12 is if you finish before five minutes, you can't sell the
13 remaining time to anyone else in the room, no auctions out
14 in the hall. So if you finish in less than five minutes,
15 that's just fine, and you can go ahead and sit.

16 If you give your comments and you have other
17 appointments, other things you need to do to leave the
18 room, you can feel free to do that; no one will be
19 insulted. And we welcome you to stay throughout the
20 listening session.

21 I have speakers by number. So I will try to call
22 out the number and the speaker's name. Forgive me in
23 advance if I don't get your name correct. I will give it
24 the best shot I know. There are times when we will skip
25 over a number because I've gotten some kind of word that

1 that person isn't available at that moment, so be ready a
2 couple numbers out ahead of your number.

3 Because we have a number of folks participating
4 today, which is wonderful, as the speaker's number in
5 front of you is called and that speaker is wrapping up
6 their comments, feel free to go ahead and make your way to
7 the microphone, and that will help us stay on time.

8 THE TRANSLATOR: The translation here is not
9 working. None of the translation gear is working. Maybe
10 it's a different channel or something.

11 FACILITATOR PENNY: Our translator is standing
12 outside the door, which is why you see me looking over my
13 shoulder.

14 He's going to check on that. Thank you for
15 bringing that to our attention.

16 If anyone at the microphone wants the help of the
17 translator, all you need to do is let us know. And let me
18 ask, because my -- I'm not able to translate that well, is
19 somebody that's bilingual able to say that people can
20 request the translator when they're at the microphone?

21 (Whereupon an unidentified speaker spoke to the
22 audience in Spanish.)

23 FACILITATOR PENNY: Thank you.

24 So here's a little bit more about how this is
25 going to work. The session is videotaped, there's a

1 camera, and it will be transcribed. Your comments are
2 going to be available on the website for CDFA, just for
3 you to know.

4 There's a couple of foundations that have made
5 funding available for this session, including the
6 Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation and the Colombia
7 Foundation.

8 So we have some ground rules: That everyone's
9 going to treat everyone else with respect, everyone will
10 strive to be complete and concise. You will have up to
11 five minutes. I may intervene, rarely and briefly, to
12 help you give your comments, to ask a clarifying question,
13 but it will be rare and it will be brief. Most of the
14 time is yours.

15 We ask you to turn cell phones and pagers off or
16 to vibrate. So now is a great time to do that if you
17 haven't already done so.

18 You can pass if your points have been made by
19 another speaker. You can feel free to pass and note that
20 your comments have already been made.

21 If you have questions for the panel, the panel's
22 job today is to listen. So if you have questions for the
23 panel, we'll make note of them, and if there's time left
24 at the end of the session, come back to those.

25 You can also give written input, written input

1 today and afterwards on the website, which is
2 agvision@cdfa.ca.gov.

3 Now, I'm about to make my request to the panel
4 for their job. So the job of the panel is to listen.
5 There's a quote that listening, not imitation, may be the
6 sincerest form of flattery. So the panel's job today is
7 to listen to your comments. The panel may have clarifying
8 questions for a speaker, and I'll try to pause very
9 briefly after a speaker to give the panel a chance if they
10 have any clarifying questions to the speaker. And I get
11 permission to intervene, to keep us on track and on time
12 as necessary.

13 So let me first ask the panel and then I will ask
14 all of you if you can agree to this approach to today's
15 meeting.

16 So, panel, are you okay with this approach?

17 And the rest of you, are you okay with this
18 approach to today's meeting?

19 All right. With that, we're going to get going.
20 So I will call the first speaker. So I have speaker 1,
21 Richard Matoian.

22 MR. MATOIAN: Good morning. I have the dubious
23 honor of being the first stop. I saw the wonderful
24 agriculture products that you had in the front. I brought
25 some of our wonderful pistachios. I believe they're in

1 front of you at your spots. So please enjoy them.

2 They're from one of our California processors.

3 My name is Richard Matoian. I'm the Executive
4 Director of the Western Pistachio Association,
5 headquartered in Fresno. The WPA is a trade association
6 that came together after the demise in 2007 of the
7 marketing order for pistachios, which was called the
8 California Pistachio Commission. As a voluntary
9 organization, the Western Pistachio Association is not
10 bound by the restrictions of a state or federal marketing
11 order, therefore we can lobby, we have a political action
12 committee; and that truly is our focus, to work on behalf
13 of our member growers on legislative and regulatory issues
14 and regulatory issues that affect them.

15 The Western Pistachio Association has members
16 from 16 states. The California pistachio industry alone
17 has 177,000 acres planted in the ground with a crop value
18 of \$557 million. I will note that fiscal year 2003-2004,
19 exports represented only about 33 percent of our total
20 shipments. In this current fiscal year, 2007-2008, with
21 trends continuing in the manner in which they are
22 continuing, our export should reach somewhere around 70
23 percent of our total shipment; so a dramatic increase in
24 about a four-year period of time. This large amount of
25 exports has certainly helped to provide a positive trade

1 balance.

2 You've asked us as stakeholders to provide our
3 view and comments regarding the California vision by 2030,
4 the biggest challenge in achieving that vision, and
5 must-haves in that ag vision. Let me tell you and present
6 to you some comments regarding that ag vision.

7 Unfortunately, many of our issues today are not
8 coming out of the fields but out of the halls of the state
9 and federal legislature and also out of our regulatory
10 bodies and in some cases the courts. We have solved the
11 many production issues through focused research and
12 targeted education to our growers. We are confident that
13 this research will continue to serve us in the future.
14 But it's the manmade legislative and regulatory issues
15 that will continue to put our industry and ag in a
16 difficult position.

17 Among these are unfair trade activities by our
18 trade competitors, pesticide use and availability issues,
19 country of origin labeling or the lack thereof, and
20 multilateral and bilateral trade agreements. And recently
21 the water issue has put our -- into question our
22 capability to produce into the future.

23 In 1965 there were only 200 acres of commercial
24 pistachios in the State of California. Today we have in
25 excess of 177,000 acres. We're rightfully proud of this

1 accomplishment. And in recent years growers in the State
2 of California have reaped the reward of our hard work and
3 dedication. It's brought additional jobs, money into the
4 economy, and as I said previously, assisting in a positive
5 trade balance.

6 Our challenges as a partner with nature are many,
7 but with perseverance, we have not only survived but we've
8 flourished. We have pistachio growers in some areas of
9 the state that rely solely upon either the state water
10 project or the central water -- Central Valley Project for
11 their sole source of water. They do not have wells in the
12 ground because of the poor water quality if they were to
13 have such wells.

14 Certainly through the drought, but also through
15 past and recent court rulings, it has cost many of our
16 growers in the hundreds if not millions of dollars to
17 purchase additional water to water their permanent crops.
18 One of our growers told us that in 2006 he had spent
19 \$215,000 to purchase water and in this year he will spend
20 \$900,000

21 Real quickly regarding the farm bill, as was said
22 by the Secretary, there's plenty of opportunities for
23 California agriculture; these block grants I think are
24 going to be beneficial to us. In 2007 there was a
25 particular program that was funded, detection and

1 eradication tools for exotic pest fruit flies. This was a
2 broad multi-commodity approach, and we believe that when
3 future funds are available, these kinds of funding
4 approaches should be examined. Specific programs are good
5 to fund, but broad approaches that can affect multiple
6 commodities would be very, very beneficial to us.

7 Thank you for consideration of my comments. And
8 as always, we look forward to working with the State Board
9 of Food and Ag and CDFA in solving the problems. Thank
10 you.

11 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Thank you.

13 As a second speaker, Sandy Beals is coming to the
14 microphone.

15 I'll note something that I neglected to note
16 before. Kyle over here is our timekeeper. He's got a
17 sign he will hold up when you've got one minute remaining.
18 Another sign he'll hold up when the five minutes is up.
19 So when you see that lovely time sign, go ahead and wrap
20 up your thoughts so we can share the time as much as
21 possible. Thank you very much.

22 Sandy.

23 MS. BEALS: Thanks. Good morning. I'm Sandy
24 Beals, Executive Director for Food Link for Tulare County.
25 Food Link is the food bank that serves the Tulare County

1 area.

2 Our vision for the year 2030 is that no child
3 wonders if there will be dinner tonight; no child falls
4 asleep at his school desk because he hasn't had breakfast;
5 no child would dread weekends because there won't be any
6 lunch; no child is overweight because the only food
7 available is cheap, high calorie and low nutrient; no
8 child will consider fresh fruit an occasional luxury; no
9 child will drink soda instead of milk because it's less
10 expensive and more accessible; no child will go through
11 summer without a healthy lunch because school is out; no
12 child goes hungry.

13 We hope for a year 2030 in which everyone will be
14 able to access adequate and nutritious food, including all
15 the fruits and vegetables necessary for good health. Of
16 course this produce will be California grown. This seems
17 to be a very simple vision, but the challenges to making
18 it a reality are great.

19 At the food bank we're seeing more and more
20 families who haven't had to rely on us before. At the
21 same time, food banks have entered a crisis stage with a
22 sharp loss in the supply of donated food and our own
23 increased costs of food and trucking. Commodity foods
24 supplied to us by USDA have hit a low point with a 60
25 percent decline since 2002. The new farm bill will be

1 helpful with its increased allocation of commodities, but
2 it's not enough to reach even the 2002 levels, and it's
3 definitely not enough to adequately meet the increasing
4 numbers of people in need.

5 In 2007 our San Joaquin Valley experienced a
6 freeze that destroyed our citrus and other crops. This
7 instantly resulted in widespread unemployment for many
8 thousands of workers. In response, the Governor's office
9 quickly appropriated emergency funds to make sure these
10 workers did not go hungry. The economic situation that
11 California faces today is a different type of disaster,
12 but this disaster also requires a quick response.

13 What must we have? We're very involved with the
14 California Association of Food Banks' Farm to Family
15 Program. We purchased over two million pounds of fresh
16 produce over the last two years at very, very reduced
17 cost. It is imperative that this program flourish and
18 grow.

19 Our local ag industry must also flourish. The
20 freeze of 2007 was a startling reminder of what happens to
21 our entire economy when ag suffers. Government funded
22 programs such as food stamps, school breakfast and lunch,
23 WIC, senior meals and summer food must be supported and
24 maintained. These programs help families stay strong and
25 healthy through economic downturns. The state should

1 institute a state funded food purchase program to help
2 food banks provide enough healthy food to people in need.

3 Thank you for your time and your interest.

4 FACILITATOR PENNY: Speaker 3, Michael Darnell.
5 He's already at the microphone.

6 MR. DARNELL: Good morning, Secretary Kawamura,
7 President Montna, and Board Members. My name is Mike
8 Darnell. I'm the California Policy Director of the
9 American Farmland Trust. AFT is a national nonprofit
10 organization working to conserve and protect the best
11 farmland and help agriculture make a positive contribution
12 of environmental quality.

13 We applaud the Board of Food and Agriculture and
14 CDFA for undertaking this landmark visioning process. We
15 hope and trust that this will lead to measurable
16 objectives, a specific action agenda, and the assignment
17 of responsibilities to public and private sector
18 institutions for achieving the desired outcomes.

19 Today I want to focus on one thing that the
20 vision should incorporate, the preservation of
21 California's irreplaceable farmland, especially here in
22 the central valley, which accounts for more than half of
23 the state's total agricultural output. There's nothing
24 more fundamental to the sustainability of California
25 agriculture than the actual land itself. It is impossible

1 to envision a bright future for California agriculture
2 without adequate farmland.

3 I grew up in northern San Joaquin County and I've
4 personally seen the effects of growth on farmland in the
5 central valley. As I was growing up, the area surrounding
6 my home was comprised of orchards, dairies, alfalfa fields
7 and other seasonal crops. The land around the home I grew
8 up in now features large lot residential homes and small
9 agricultural fields full of weeds and pests.

10 Housing developments, commercial sprawl and rural
11 ranchettes are steadily and incrementally eating away at
12 the valley's agricultural base. Recent AFT studies have
13 documented the cumulative impacts. In the valley of
14 leading agricultural counties, more than 70 percent of the
15 land being developed is in prime, unique or of statewide
16 importance. Development is consuming this highly
17 productive land in a very inefficient manner, in fact, it
18 is accommodating only eight people for every acre that it
19 consumes.

20 In addition to the loss of land, there is
21 increasing conflict between agriculture and urban
22 development, including land price inflation, competition
23 for water, and more demands for regulation of agriculture
24 properties. We cannot continue to tolerate this
25 inefficient use of farmland and still expect agriculture

1 to remain economically healthy. Instead, a statewide
2 vision and plan for agriculture must help assure that the
3 best farmland remains available for agriculture and that
4 urban development doesn't convert any more land than is
5 truly necessary to accommodate our expanding population
6 and continued economic growth that we all well desire.

7 This endeavor will not only maximize the options
8 for California agriculture producers and the industry as a
9 whole, but will promote more efficient development to help
10 achieve the State's climate goals, improve environmental
11 quality, and contribute to the fiscal viability of cities,
12 counties, and the state by minimizing public service
13 costs.

14 American Farmland Trust therefore proposes that
15 the California ag vision include a quantifiable goal of
16 reducing the conversion of prime, unique and statewide
17 important farmland to an average of not more than one acre
18 for 20 new residents in every county that has significant
19 agricultural production. By 2030, this would save over
20 500,000 acres of land statewide compared with the
21 continuation of current trends.

22 Ideally I would like to elaborate on the kind of
23 specific actions and responsibilities that could be
24 adopted to implement this goal, however, due to time
25 constraints, let us suffice it to say that AFT has given

1 this vision a great deal of thought and will provide
2 further ideas for consideration as the process goes
3 forward.

4 Thank you for your attention and your commitment
5 to a bright future for California agriculture.

6 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 3.5,
7 which is Barry Bedwell, and then we'll go to speaker 4,
8 Diana Westmoreland.

9 MR. BEDWELL: No, no, let Diana go first.

10 MS. WESTMORELAND-PEDROZO: What a gentleman you
11 are; go ahead.

12 MR. BEDWELL: No, please, after you.

13 MS. WESTMORELAND-PEDROZO: Good morning,
14 Secretary Kawamura and Board Members. Merced County Farm
15 Bureau has been calling for a plan for agriculture for
16 many years now and is pleased to have the opportunity to
17 have an impact on that plan with CDFA. Thank you for the
18 opportunity to paint our picture, but also to have an
19 impact on reframing the discussion on a plan for
20 agriculture for future generations the vision.

21 Agriculture is the foundation of our national
22 security policy, and California leads the nation in
23 agricultural production. We have protected our greatest
24 asset, the ability to feed ourselves. The fertile
25 valleys, hills, forest and river supply the food, fiber,

1 nursery and forest products for California and the world.
2 Affordable, efficient water storage and conveyance systems
3 flow with water for agriculture, manufacturing,
4 environmental and urban needs. Our diverse and abundant
5 crops and products allow us to compete globally in the
6 world marketplace secure in knowing we will not be relying
7 on foreign nations to supply our food.

8 Urban farms and gardens are an important part of
9 the fabric of our communities. The rural farms and bases
10 are supported by a legislature and governmental agencies
11 that understand, respect, and safeguard our working
12 landscapes.

13 Communities that supply jobs to local residents
14 are flourishing with healthy families and manufacturing
15 and industry that supports the ag-based economy with the
16 latest innovative technology. Value-added ag products are
17 abundant, adding strength to the overall economic picture
18 for California. California has led the way the last two
19 decades with innovative and cutting-edge technology and
20 the alternative energy and water conservation industries.
21 Developing and manufacturing the technology has opened new
22 paths for employment and resource management. The San
23 Joaquin Valley farms and ranches have led the way with
24 solar energy and technology uses.

25 So what will be the biggest challenge? And I say

1 this to every one of you in the room, bringing agriculture
2 together to speak as a united voice, changing our growth
3 patterns for urban development, and inventory of land must
4 be sustainable and affordable to produce our crops and
5 commodities, a regulatory environment that is based on an
6 understanding of the impacts and costs of rules and
7 regulations for the men and women who produce the over 350
8 uniquely California products, finding a solution to the
9 litigation tactics that have been the norm for decades in
10 regards to water, land use and regulations. Positive
11 action, not reaction, can bring about solutions without
12 wasting huge amounts of money in the court system.

13 In 2030 how has the public perception changed?

14 Beginning the summer of 2008, agriculture
15 organizations, commodity groups and others came together
16 contributing ten percent of their existing marketing and
17 advertising budgets to bring our message to the public.
18 Because the campaign was successful with this united
19 effort, the public understood the strategic importance of
20 a domestic food supply to our national security. The
21 public supports the farming communities. They have
22 demanded that our elected officials take action to
23 preserve and protect the integrity of the working farms
24 and ranches with policies in place that safeguard our
25 natural resources, including the men and women who work

1 the land. Recognizing that land is a finite resource, the
2 cities have incorporated strong growth policies that have
3 kept development within the urban boundaries allowing city
4 residents access to fresh, local produce and products from
5 neighboring farms, ranches and businesses. Building up,
6 in-fill development and a jobs-housing balance are few of
7 the many policies put in place in 2008 to value the many
8 benefits from a vibrant and productive ag industry.

9 Ag has been a leading example with technology for
10 alternative energy solutions. These advancements have
11 brought a real and measurable improvement in the lives of
12 all Californians. Support and respect for these
13 innovators is widespread.

14 What's the must-have? Immediate action to
15 address the water crisis we currently face because of
16 decades of inaction, increased water storage and an
17 efficient conveyance system to move water throughout the
18 state to meet the needs of all Californians. Recognizing
19 that the top priority is producing a safe, domestic food
20 supply, the latest water conservation and energy
21 technology is incorporated on the farms, ranches,
22 businesses, homes and governmental agencies, produced by
23 us, required by us, home grown. Mitigation for ag land
24 conversion is a requirement at a minimum of four to one.
25 APHIS has been moved back to USDA.

1 Review an evaluation of existing laws and
2 regulations that impact the production of our food supply.
3 What is the goal? How is it being accomplished? Are they
4 effective? Are they cost prohibiting? Are they leading
5 to the outsourcing of our food supply? These and many
6 more questions need to be addressed before we move
7 forward.

8 We are overburdened with regulations at all
9 levels of government that are not based on peer-reviewed
10 science or any acknowledgement of the industry or any
11 knowledge of the industry they're regulating. Common
12 sense and coordination is sorely lacking today and cannot
13 continue if the future of agriculture is to remain viable
14 and economically feasible to the producers and processors
15 in this room.

16 Thank you. Excuse me for going over my time.

17 BOARD MEMBER VALPREDO: Mr. President, would you
18 make sure that each of the speakers identifies themselves.

19 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Yes.

20 Could the speakers please identify yourselves
21 slowly. I'm having a hard time taking some notes. I
22 would appreciate it. And I can't quite see your name
23 tags.

24 FACILITATOR PENNY: Although I will give your --
25 try to give your name as you come up, if you would start

1 your comments by giving your name and the organization
2 you're with, if any.

3 So this is Barry Bedwell.

4 MR. BEDWELL: Okay. Thank you. Good morning. I
5 am Barry Bedwell, and I'm president of the California
6 Grape and Tree Fruit League. The League is a voluntary
7 public policy organization that represents the approximate
8 two-billion-dollar table grape and deciduous tree fruit
9 communities in California.

10 First, I'd like to thank the California
11 Department of Food and Agriculture, particularly Secretary
12 Kawamura, along with the State Board of Food and
13 Agriculture as headed by Al Montna for conducting these
14 listening sessions today. I think they're very valuable.

15 In regard to today's session, our members fully
16 support the efforts of CDFA to develop a vision for a more
17 productive, competitive and innovative agricultural sector
18 by 2030, and we agree that that should be our goal.

19 As a representative of production agriculture, I
20 must confess that while there are days when I'm encouraged
21 by the progress our growers and shippers make in producing
22 healthy and nutritious fruits, many times I find myself
23 depressed about the prospects of true long-term
24 sustainability.

25 In spite of the fact that California agriculture

1 continually and seemingly sets records for gross revenue
2 each year, the reality is that the profitability continues
3 to be pressured due to a ever-increasing list of factors.
4 But most importantly, I'm concerned over the attitudes
5 over a majority of California of what appears to be a
6 growing lack of concern over the importance of maintaining
7 a domestic food supply.

8 Having been involved with production agriculture
9 for over three decades, I realize that what I'm saying is
10 nothing new. In fact, I can hear the comments,
11 particularly from Sacramento, that continually say, well,
12 here they go again, always complaining about being put out
13 of business, but they're always around, they never go
14 away. It reminds me of a quote I recently read in the
15 newspaper, and I want to make this very clear that this
16 isn't my quote, but it came from a farmer of all people
17 who said that, you know why puppies are different than
18 farmers? When the puppy grows up, it quits whining.

19 Now, I accept the fact that our credibility is
20 constantly being questioned due to the exceptional
21 resiliency of all the individuals involved with production
22 agriculture, however, that does not change the reality of
23 the current situation whereby large numbers of
24 Californians are demanding that their agendas are
25 fulfilled without regard to the impact or unintended

1 consequences and agriculture, whether it involves the
2 denial of eradication efforts for invasive pests, add in
3 regulations to impact air quality, or moving to oversee
4 irrigated lands is just a few examples. California
5 residents are sending the message that outsourcing of
6 their food supply is an acceptable alternative.

7 So how do we achieve our goal for a vision for
8 2030 knowing that much like the recent decision by judges
9 that ruled that an emergency cannot be declared until
10 actual damages occur and not prior, do we have to wait
11 till the implementation of additional regulations and
12 costs, until that point we actually go out of business?
13 Can we really educate Californians to the benefits of a
14 domestic food supply when it comes to food safety as well
15 as food security issues?

16 There is no question that when you truly
17 contemplate the risk, consumers would most likely think
18 twice before totally importing our food supply, however,
19 and in the final analysis, the answer to true
20 sustainability for production agriculture will most likely
21 resolve around our ability to align ourselves with those
22 same seemingly indifferent individuals when it comes to
23 the future of agriculture and their ambitions, not ours.

24 The fact that Californians view themselves as
25 environmentally as well as economically progressive, and

1 production agriculture view themselves as basic protectors
2 of environment, yet such views are not held by the
3 respective parties of each other, the question then shifts
4 as to how to recognize the contributions of agriculture to
5 the environment and social causes which parallel the
6 desire of Californians and in turn contribute to true
7 sustainability. In other words, we need to find a means
8 of providing recognition to production agriculture for
9 such contributions as carbon sequestration, wildlife
10 habitat and maintaining open space, both in perception and
11 in economic value.

12 In summary, if you're going to add additional
13 regulatory costs and burdens to meet the environmental
14 goals, then we need to provide tax incentives and credits
15 that acknowledge the benefits of agriculture and mitigate
16 the impact of added cost to allow California agriculture
17 to compete on a worldwide basis. This concept in its way
18 is nothing new and it's a variation and a means of the
19 general fund concept, which I believe unfortunately is
20 being more narrowly defined and unfortunately not applying
21 as it should to agriculture.

22 So rather than exempt agriculture from additional
23 regulations, which is generally viewed as unacceptable, a
24 system needs to be created whereby credit would be given
25 where credit is due. So therefore, we meet the three main

1 goals of agricultural sustainability, environmentally
2 friendly, socially responsible and economically viable.

3 So in the final analysis and in conclusion, I
4 would say that part of this effort must be a clear
5 articulation of a statewide farm policy similar to the
6 federal farm bill, which communicates the value for all
7 Californians. The creation of a state farm bill would
8 serve as a vehicle not only to identify on a multi-year
9 basis those areas of credit and investment in
10 agriculture's competitiveness, but also serve as a
11 continual educational tool and reminder for members of
12 California's Assembly and Senate of the many positives
13 that food production provides for all the state's
14 citizens.

15 So the future of California can and should be
16 bright given the focus on healthy and nutritious food, but
17 we need to realize that given the current trends, there
18 needs to be a recognition, that we need a means to assist
19 in obtaining this long-term sustainability; without that,
20 we put at risk all of these wonderful gifts of soil,
21 water, and climate that make California the best place in
22 the world.

23 Thank you again for conducting this listening
24 session and allowing us the opportunity to participate.

25 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you, Barry.

1 FACILITATOR PENNY: Okay. Next up we have
2 speaker 5, Jean Okuye.

3 MS. OKUYE: Okuye, like oh, phooey. It's
4 Japanese.

5 THE TRANSLATOR: Could you slow down for the
6 translation, please?

7 MS. OKUYE: I am representing Valley Land
8 Alliance.

9 I'd like to give you a little background from
10 where I come. In 1980, my husband, in his family there
11 was a death, and that brought us to a Japanese-American
12 community in Livingston in Merced County. I used to teach
13 piano, we had a new home in Montecito, Santa Barbara. And
14 I moved to a house that hadn't been painted for 60 years
15 and had 15 fuses in it, which we blew 300 in one year. It
16 was a real experience.

17 And I don't run the farming as our 12 and 14 year
18 old did, my husband had Parkinson's, but we all did it as
19 a family, we put a lot of blood, sweat and tears; and
20 that's why I'm here today, because I really do believe we
21 need to save this farmland.

22 I'm thankful to the state and the Central Valley
23 Farmland Trust. I just put my land in an easement. I
24 have 80 acres in almonds. We have two home sites on it.
25 And I'm able to watch my fifth generation, the fifth

1 generation, my grandchildren grow up on this farm.

2 I am now the President of Valley Land Alliance.
3 This is a nonprofit 501c3. We started two years ago with
4 a mission to educate and build alliances to protect our
5 California central valley farmland. Besides starting the
6 Valley Land Alliance, I got involved with talking to the
7 board of supervisors and planning commission, and I'm on
8 the Advisory Committee for the City of Livingston. And
9 I'm concerned about this urban sprawl and saving farmland.
10 I'm also a Farm Board member in Merced County. So thank
11 you for this opportunity.

12 Our vision, California must be proactive to save
13 its farmland. This includes long-term planning beyond the
14 terms of decision-makers such as city councilpersons,
15 county boards of supervisors, county and city planning
16 commissioners, state assemblymen, and senators and federal
17 decision-makers. Statewide protection of agriculture must
18 be a priority. To guarantee food and fiber production we
19 must have water, land, and adequate clean air protection
20 to grow our crops. We also must have continuous
21 monitoring to detect the detrimental intrusive pests which
22 threaten our food productivity, to avoid the use of harsh
23 chemical applications.

24 To accomplish this our vision is to have
25 statewide policy which will award development within

1 present spheres of influences, will support sustainability
2 and renewable energy, will guarantee that ground and
3 surface water will be available at affordable prices for
4 designated zoned farmland, will encourage good air quality
5 through designing of our communities and transportation
6 systems, and will provide means to monitor for pests which
7 have the potential of destroying our crops.

8 History has shown us what can happen if we do not
9 protect our habitat; and that was brought up by
10 Mr. Kawamura, how land has been paved over in southern
11 California and other places. We must preserve our
12 habitat, which is the land, water and adequate air and
13 ability to produce food. Not only our crops may be in
14 peril, but our society as well. Truly, the central valley
15 is a state, no, a national treasure. Our finite resources
16 must be protected.

17 Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up speaker 6, we have
19 Shirley Batchmen. And after Shirley will be speaker 7,
20 Ted Batkin.

21 MS. BATCHMEN: Good morning, Mr. Secretary,
22 President Montna, and Board Members. I am Shirley
23 Batchmen with California Citrus Mutual. We work on behalf
24 of the state citrus growers, and we are seeing that we are
25 coming to a critical juncture for this industry and that

1 the path chosen by this administration and the next will
2 determine the future of this agricultural land in this
3 state.

4 These listening sessions are focusing on the
5 future for the next 20 or 30 years. My comments are going
6 to focus on the next 5 to 10 because I will tell you,
7 long-term planning is going to become moot if we don't
8 have some short-term visions and an action plan to support
9 it.

10 Yesterday I read a quote, which I think is very
11 appropriate for today. And it said, public policy
12 directly or indirectly affects drivers that are key to the
13 growth and development of California agriculture. No
14 truer words are spoken in today's environment. This
15 administration's environmental focus has now become the
16 state's number one driver of public policy, and it is
17 having a significant impact on the profitability of the
18 industry and the survival and the potential survival of
19 this industry as we know it today. It can be described as
20 a death by a thousands cuts, a thousand regulations. One
21 regulation, one cut, you don't die; but the cumulative
22 impact will ultimately cause your death.

23 And let me be very clear to everyone on the Board
24 and in this room, production agriculture is not opposed to
25 environmental regulations; we understand good stewardship

1 provides societal benefits for all of us. Where our angst
2 comes and our concerns is that this administration's
3 environmental policy is not balanced nor does it have a
4 social economic benefit component. Fast track compliance
5 at any cost is the administration's environmental gold
6 standard. The cumulative impact of these regulations is
7 driving producers out of business or off shore making the
8 citizens of this state and this nation more dependent on
9 foreign suppliers for food and fiber.

10 Let me just offer you a few specific examples of
11 how these regulations are impacting us closer to home.
12 Agricultural land in the San Joaquin Valley is being
13 bulldozed and transitioned to development at an alarming
14 rate. The California cotton industry this year planted
15 300,000 acres of cotton. Sounds like a lot. In the year
16 2000 they had one million plus acres.

17 The California citrus industry currently has a
18 regulatory, and I want to emphasize, regulatory cost of
19 \$311 per acre greater than our counterparts in Texas. As
20 we spoke, thousands of acres in Ventura County is being
21 targeted for retirement due to an environmental decision
22 made by this administration. Take that next year, 2009,
23 in the San Joaquin Valley, what is happening to Ventura
24 comes to the San Joaquin Valley, as thousands of acres of
25 ag land will be put out of production to meet the VOC

1 reduction requirement mandated by the Department of
2 Pesticide Regulation. And I want to speak specifically to
3 that for a minute from my city.

4 On the target list to be eliminated is a plant
5 growth regulator, which impacts our ability to manage crop
6 maturity to meet market timing. When that is removed from
7 the list, we do not have a replacement material, it is
8 gone. Also in DPR's target list are oils. If they are
9 lost, it will interrupt our IPM programs and will impact
10 organic farming.

11 Let's move on to the State Air Resources Board.
12 Their current development of their diesel truck regulation
13 and farming equipment regulation is going to cost
14 agriculture billions of dollars, as they are mandated to
15 buy 2010 trucks and replace all of their farm equipment.
16 The agency itself has admitted or acknowledged that this
17 is the largest regulation ever undertaken by that agency.

18 OEHHA, California's Office of Health Hazard
19 Assessment, is currently initiating a process that if
20 implemented as drafted will require a prop 65 warning be
21 placed on all citrus sold in a grocery store advising
22 customers that eating citrus is hazardous to their health.

23 Lastly, and then I'll wrap up, I want to talk
24 about water. I'm not going to talk about the overreaching
25 issue that you're going to hear a lot about today, I just

1 want to give you an example of another fee. In 2002 a
2 citrus packing house in Tulare County paid \$400 for a
3 waste water discharge permit. In 2007, that same permit
4 was \$4700. Let me assure you nothing changed; there were
5 not any violations to warrant a \$4300 increase. It is
6 just another example of the cost, the ever-increasing cost
7 of doing business in this state.

8 What I have outlaid for you is a brief overview
9 of the challenges that the state's environmental policy is
10 placing on agriculture. These are today's issues, not
11 tomorrow, and how we deal with them will dictate our
12 future.

13 From our perspective the Department needs to be
14 more effective in advocating for the industry, and failure
15 to do so, we will not need to talk about the environment.

16 And let me just leave you with one last thought.
17 The legacy of the Schwarzenegger administration will be
18 the retirement of prime agricultural land and the
19 elimination of agriculture as a prime economic driver in
20 the State of California if this is not addressed.

21 Thank you, and thank you for the time.

22 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 7,
23 Ted Batkin. And then after Ted will be speaker 8, Ed
24 Needham.

25 MR. BATKIN: Thank you very much to Secretary

1 Kawamura and Chairman Montna. Again, I appreciate the
2 opportunity to speak before this Board. This is, you've
3 heard me before on invasive pests and diseases. My name
4 is Ted Batkin. I'm the President of the California Citrus
5 Research Board and the Chairman of the California Invasive
6 Pest Coalition, which is made up of the agriculture
7 producing trade associations and commodity boards in
8 California.

9 And I just want to open with a quick quote, and
10 that is that California agriculture will cease to exist
11 due to excessive government regulations, lack of water,
12 and lack of transportation. And some of you have heard me
13 say this before, that quote is written in -- excuse me,
14 1898, and it was a paraphrase of a conversation in the
15 book, "The Octopus," by Frank Norris, and was talking
16 about growing feed here in Tulare County.

17 My great-grandfather happened to be part of the
18 wheat growing activities here in Tulare County during that
19 time, so I've maintained that thought in my mind for my
20 entire life.

21 The reality is that we always survive these
22 things, we will survive everything that is thrown at us;
23 but the question is how will we look. And that's what my
24 comments today are going to be put towards, is how will we
25 look in 2030 or how will we look in 2050 or in the year

1 2100 as we move forward in time. And there's several
2 challenges. You're going to hear from a lot of people
3 about a lot of different challenges, but I'm going to keep
4 my comments focused to a couple of areas.

5 First, primarily, is one I've spoken with you
6 before about and will continue to speak about until I go
7 into the box, and that is invasive pests. The invasive
8 pest problem will continuously plague the State of
9 California and challenge our agriculture production as
10 well as our environment, whether it be homeowners or the
11 forest or the entire environment are threatened by
12 invasive species.

13 The primary focus that needs to be continuously
14 placed in any vision, whether it be the vision for this
15 year, for five years from now or twenty-five years from
16 now is an invasive pest must be approached with first
17 exclusion, and then followed, when that is breached by
18 early detection, the ability to find them when they breach
19 exclusion matters and then finally with rapid response.
20 These are the three critical elements that must be
21 included in any type of a strategy or vision that is going
22 to carry us through one, five, ten, or a hundred years.

23 The second area I'm just going to briefly touch
24 on, and I will add these comments in written comments to
25 you all, is that we must maintain a strong relationship

1 between the agriculture industry and the academic and
2 research institutions throughout California and the
3 United States and the world. Our future depends upon
4 being able to find the next important crop, the next
5 solution to an invasive pest, the next solution to a
6 disease. And that's where I see our vision needing to be
7 strengthened as we move forward into the next 25 years.

8 I'm going to touch just slightly on what is our
9 vision for citrus, what do we want the citrus industry to
10 look like in 25 years. First off, we want to be here.
11 And if we follow the tracks that invasive pests have
12 caused in Florida, where they may not be here in five
13 years due to the citrus greening and the Asian Citrus
14 Psyllid, they're probably going to be depart, the entire
15 state, that's 800,000 acres lost in the State of Florida
16 within the next five years due to citrus greening.

17 Last week the Asian Citrus Psyllid was discovered
18 in Tijuana, and we know that they didn't read the signs
19 that we put up at the border, so they came across the
20 border into San Diego County. And we are faced now with
21 the same threats that Florida's faced. So a continuous
22 approach to invasives and strengthening these activities.

23 Will the citrus industry be here in 25 years? I
24 sure hope so, I'm planning on it. And will it be here in
25 a hundred years? You bet.

1 So I just want to add one additional comment.
2 You've heard all about water, and I won't talk about that,
3 everybody else will, but I want to talk about the concept
4 of family farming, because we are no longer an industry of
5 family farming, but we need to consider ourselves a farm
6 family. We have to look at the entire complex of
7 agriculture in the State of California as a family as we
8 deal with the public and deal with public outreach and
9 changing the attitudes amongst the public.

10 And in closing, I just want to make one quote
11 about strategic planning that is a mantra that we follow
12 in our business, and that comes from Dwight David
13 Eisenhower as he was preparing for D Day, and that is that
14 strategic plans are worthless, but strategic planning is
15 absolutely essential. It is important to continuously
16 think strategically in all the areas and actions as we
17 move forward in time, not just over one day, one week, one
18 month, ten years or twenty-five years, that we
19 continuously update strategy plans and strategic thinking
20 on a continuous basis.

21 Thank you.

22 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 8, Ed
23 Needham. After Ed will be speaker 11, Jennifer Hernandez.

24 MR. NEEDHAM: Good morning, Mr. Secretary and
25 Board Members. I'd like to thank you for taking the time

1 proactively to address the future of agriculture by coming
2 here today and asking for our input. It's seldom that a
3 proactive approach is taken to address long-term issues,
4 usually being reactive. I applaud you for coming here.
5 Thank you very much.

6 My name is Ed Needham. I live in Visalia,
7 California, and I farm citrus and pomegranates in the
8 central valley. I'm also general manager of Synagro
9 Technologies and oversee all composting operations in
10 California, and I also serve as President of the Tulare
11 County Farm Bureau. I'm also a Director on the Kern
12 County Farm Bureau. I currently hold a PCA and PCL
13 license, and I've been farming for over 25 years. And
14 thank you again for inviting me to appear.

15 At first glance this problem was easy if you
16 applied my mindset at the beginning of each year, next
17 year will be a little better. You know, I've been saying
18 this to myself for 25 years; and I'm still here, so if we
19 do the math, I think everything's solved. Problem is it's
20 not that easy, and I wish it was; you know, being an
21 eternal optimist would solve our problems, but it won't.
22 Identifying where California agriculture will be in 2030
23 is a unique challenge. In my remarks I'd like to discuss
24 just a few of the many critical, important challenges that
25 exist in attaining an ideal 2030 vision for California

1 agriculture.

2 What agriculture will need is not any different
3 than what our needs are today. Our needs have remained
4 relatively the same for decades. First and foremost, a
5 complete agricultural infrastructure that will allow for
6 agriculture to exist and survive in a sustainable manner.
7 Infrastructure will allow -- our sustainability must
8 include a fair return on investment that is competitive
9 with other applications of capital resources, i.e., other
10 forms of investment. It will not be sufficient to compete
11 only with agriculture enterprises in other states and
12 countries. Again, agriculture will need to be profitable
13 enough to attract capital and to lure new generations to
14 the industry. In order to achieve this, California needs
15 a regulatory framework that allows for producers to be
16 competitive.

17 We need better understanding by and support of
18 the public and our elected appointed officials. There is
19 currently a huge disconnect between food production and
20 the consumers who depend on it. We will need to have a
21 sustained outreach and reconnection effort with the public
22 and decision makers.

23 Agriculture's basic needs for sustainability and
24 a successful future are a reliable water supply and
25 investment and implementation of sufficient conveyance and

1 storage, reliable rural crime prevention funds and
2 programs supported unilaterally through all 58 counties in
3 California, expand funding, support, and integration of
4 existing rural crime prevention task force efforts to
5 Central Valley's Action Network, and the central valley ag
6 investigation units need to be fully utilized and expanded
7 throughout statewide effort.

8 Enacting a failsafe food safety regulatory
9 framework that assures consumers' confidence and
10 establishes a consistent science-based industry initiated
11 process for greater food safety protection. Strong
12 interaction between state agencies and county governments
13 to streamline regulatory process, a renewed and enhanced
14 effort to help farmers, ranchers, and dairy producers
15 streamline permitting requirements and environmental
16 compliance between air, water and land.

17 Flexibility must be adapted into the process at
18 the local level of government to help producers comply
19 with the myriad of overlapping and some even contradictory
20 rules and regulations that are ever being rewritten,
21 modified, updated or reauthorized. A reliable labor
22 supply, both management and field labor. This must be a
23 broad bipartisan process that engages our state and
24 federal law makers to champion this effort.

25 Reliable and affordable fuel supplies. Reliable

1 and affordable production inputs. Efficient
2 transportation systems and port facilities to facilitate
3 export of our product. Land use policies that value the
4 production of agriculture land and rangeland. This will
5 require that the state and county governments will work
6 together to help develop a more consistent framework for
7 protecting California farmland in the state.

8 The future public perception of agriculture will
9 depend on whether or not the industry continues to deliver
10 abundant, high-quality and safe supplies of agricultural
11 products. Consumers today are largely disconnected with
12 the struggles of American agriculture or the impacts that
13 urban encroachment, depleted water supplies and land
14 availability have on agriculture. Even though we continue
15 to be most efficient and resourceful cultivators of the
16 earth, this only further disconnects the American public
17 from the job of the farmer and the plight that they face
18 in delivering the abundant, high-quality, safe commodities
19 that we enjoy.

20 In closing, the last of the vision process should
21 promote solidarity within agriculture, assisting in
22 establishing consensus and defining common goals for
23 California agriculture.

24 Thank you for your time. I think this clock is
25 faster than mine, I timed myself. Thank you very much.

1 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Carolyn, can we take a minute
2 and allow some of the folks to come in and sit down. We
3 have a hall full of folks out there that I think they're
4 struggling to come in.

5 And so you folks come in that are in the hall,
6 and we have a lot of seats inside.

7 And the translation equipment is working okay?
8 Okay.

9 FACILITATOR PENNY: As folks are getting
10 resettled, when you give your name in the beginning,
11 please give it loudly because there's been a request from
12 the Board.

13 And so we have up next speaker 11 is Jennifer
14 Hernandez, and after her will be Jesus Quevedo, speaker
15 12.

16 So we do have a sprinkling of open seats perhaps,
17 so feel free to come on in and join us if you're out in
18 the hall.

19 THE TRANSLATOR: And can you remind them to speak
20 slowly for the translation, please?

21 FACILITATOR PENNY: If you can speak slowly
22 during your allotted time, it sure would help the
23 translator to keep up with you. All right? Ready to go
24 again, folks? All right.

25 You're up.

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hi. Thank you, good morning.
2 Jennifer Hernandez with the California Rural Legal
3 Assistance Foundation headquartered in Sacramento. We're
4 here today on behalf of representation of farm workers
5 across California. And I'm glad to hear that many of my
6 colleagues today have been talking about the issue of
7 water quality, environment, safety, air quality and
8 whatnot, but I'm here to present a different perspective,
9 the reality that farm workers face in California.

10 Here in the central valley, farm workers are
11 living in communities where they have access to water,
12 however, that water is contaminated. We need to make sure
13 that the industry is moving forward successfully,
14 including farm workers, but also using practices that
15 don't contaminate our environment and provides the
16 opportunity for farm workers to live healthy lives, to
17 help sustain the community, and to be a part of the
18 community.

19 I would like to go on the record and say that we
20 are disappointed that we were not able to receive enough
21 support in time from CDFR to provide the translation.
22 Luckily our partners in the community were able to provide
23 the equipment and we have volunteers that do work in the
24 community with farm workers that are helping out and doing
25 the translation. We want to thank them for that.

1 And we would just like to make the recommendation
2 that moving forward, that the process of providing input
3 from the community is one that at the forefront
4 understands that the agriculture industry at its base and
5 at its heart has farm workers, and farm workers,
6 unfortunately, don't always have the ability to speak two
7 languages, English and Spanish, and that is key to
8 developing a plan that's going to move forward that's
9 going to help the industry grow, agriculture grow in
10 California. It needs to include the farm workers at its
11 forefront.

12 For us we have a vision of agriculture that
13 imposes the concept of a triple bottom line. One where
14 environmental and social equity exists, one of economic
15 prosperity and one of social justice and equity. As I
16 said before, there was a lot of talk about the issue of
17 pesticides, water quality, and we just want to say in
18 order for us to be able to contribute to the solutions, we
19 need to be able to -- we need to be considered at all
20 levels, whether it's from the level of CDFA to local
21 policies that are being implemented.

22 Here in Tulare County specifically, there's many
23 groups that have done great work to work on the issue of
24 pesticides, and that's a great victory, however, we need
25 to encourage other, the citrus growers, the other sectors

1 of agriculture to work with us in partnering with us in
2 partnering to help create better solutions.

3 And I'll yield my time. Thank you.

4 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Next up is Jesus
5 Quevedo, and then we'll have Kathy Kellison.

6 MR. QUEVEDO: My name is Jesus Quevedo, and I'm
7 with a group called Vecinos Unidos. I'm also part of a
8 group, water quality group called Agua, which means water
9 in Spanish, Poder Popular, and the school district in my
10 community.

11 I'm glad that there's been a lot of talk about
12 agriculture, but one issue we haven't talked is about
13 education of the children of farm workers.

14 If some of the farm workers had the opportunity
15 to attend school and further their education in college,
16 we could prepare professionals such as lawyers and
17 doctors. To move forward we need professionals,
18 professionals such as doctors and lawyers. And if we did
19 encourage the children of farm workers to further their
20 education, we could have professionals in agriculture
21 furthering to grow the industry. We would have lawyers
22 that understand the perspective of both the farm worker
23 and agriculture industry who can defend and champion the
24 rights of all of those involved.

25 We would have schools that have good teachers

1 that help encourage students to become scientists and
2 doctors. They would help contribute to improve our
3 environment and environmental health, to help acquire safe
4 drinking water. We have a lot of water, however that
5 water is contaminated.

6 When we're talking about the issue of water, it's
7 important to talk about the ability to have funding for
8 water projects such as a dam. When it rains, the water
9 runs into the streams and it all filters out to the ocean.
10 We need to preserve our water, but also use it wisely so
11 that we can encourage the growth of agriculture in
12 California. Water is the key to a successful agricultural
13 industry. For instance with the citrus growers and
14 whatnot, that's the key that's going to help grow the
15 agriculture system in California.

16 We also need to talk about renewable energy
17 sources in agriculture. And given this hard time with gas
18 prices, that's something that needs to be at the
19 forefront. And we need to make sure that those that are
20 the rich are not the only ones profiting.

21 To have a more productive agriculture industry,
22 we need people that are healthy, and we can obtain that
23 through health coverage for farm workers. There needs to
24 be a balance. What we're seeing in the valley is that the
25 orange groves and the almond groves are disappearing, and

1 it's all going into development.

2 These are my last-minute recommendations. I know
3 I have a minute left, but these are my thoughts for the
4 future of agriculture. And let's just keep in mind that
5 we need to start today, not wait until 2030.

6 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Next up we have
7 Kathy Kellison, speaker 13. And after Kathy will be
8 speaker 14, Alicia Rios.

9 MS. KELLISON: Good morning. I am Kathy
10 Kellison. I am Executive Director of Partners for
11 Sustainable Pollination. We are a nonprofit dedicated to
12 improving the health of honey bees through a collaborative
13 approach with key stakeholders while supporting
14 populations of native pollinators. I'm also on the Board
15 of the California State Beekeepers Association. So you
16 can guess why I'm here today; I'm here to talk about honey
17 bees and their importance to California agriculture.

18 And the California agriculture vision, to be
19 complete, needs to consider the well-being of honey bees,
20 because they are our primary pollinator for specialty
21 crops in the United States. The amount is somewhere in
22 the neighborhood of \$15 billion of U.S. revenues each
23 year, and in California, several billion dollars of
24 revenue is attributable to the pollination services by
25 honey bees and our beekeepers. And I know that everyone

1 here is well aware, if you've been reading the papers,
2 that honey bees are in trouble and as well our beekeepers
3 are in trouble because they bear the economic cost of the
4 loss of those bees.

5 So addressing the vision for California
6 agriculture in 2030, our vision is for bountiful, healthy,
7 beautiful honey bees and a viable pollination industry to
8 carry out the pollination services so necessary to
9 sustainable agriculture and prosperous specialty crops to
10 continue. And there are issues, and I will get to those,
11 but it's going to need a collaborative approach. A trend
12 has been that beekeepers have been seen as the ones who
13 bear the burden of responsibility of keeping their honey
14 bees healthy; but there are too many external factors that
15 beekeepers have little control over, and it's going to
16 require leadership on the part of CDFA and also an
17 understanding by the public and growers and farmers alike.

18 So the biggest challenge is getting that message
19 on the table in terms of a corroborative effort to help
20 honey bees and the beekeeping industry and the challenge
21 to bring up bee forage in California, which is the letter
22 that has close signatories from a diverse group of
23 stakeholders from native bee biologists, honey bee
24 biologists, the major beekeeping industries, and
25 conventional agriculture and organic turn of the farm

1 types of approach to production agriculture.

2 In terms of looking at how the public view and
3 perception of agriculture will change in regard to honey
4 bees, I believe the public is already becoming quite aware
5 of the essential nature of honey bees to providing food on
6 their plate and that there is a bit more work to do in
7 terms of growing the awareness in the essentiality of
8 native pollinators to a stable and diverse environment and
9 ecosystem, being able to sustain diversity and
10 biodiversity for the benefit of all wildlife and ourselves
11 as well to enjoy in future generations.

12 So getting to the must-have, the must-have is a
13 fortuitous thinking on the parts of establishing what we
14 call bee forage. Lack of bee forage in California is a
15 critical limiting factor to bee health and also to the
16 beekeeping industry. Honey bees are easily transported in
17 their boxes and can be supplementally fed, but
18 entomologists across the nation will tell you that honey
19 bees need also a simultaneous blending of successive
20 plants blooming to bring in natural pollen to feed their
21 young and for the longevity of the honey bee to be
22 maximized and also for the robustness of the young bees in
23 terms of resisting pests and diseases and pathogens that
24 the honey bees face these days.

25 So in California currently it's estimated that we

1 have about 400,000 colonies of bees, which is only
2 one-fifth of the amount that we need to sustain the
3 pollination services for our specialty crops industry. So
4 increasing bee forage in California would do two
5 critical -- accomplish two critical goals for the
6 viability and the health of honey bees. First of all, it
7 would supply the nourishment that they need. It's a bit
8 sadly ironic that a species that we depend so heavily on
9 for our own food is suffering because of malnutrition.
10 And second of all, it would help California work towards
11 being self-sustaining for providing these pollination
12 services.

13 Thank you.

14 FACILITATOR PENNY: Okay. Next up, speaker 14,
15 Alicia Rios. After Alicia is Tricia Stever.

16 MS. RIOS: Good morning. My name is Alicia Rios,
17 and I'm with the California Centers for International
18 Trade Development, part of the State Center Community
19 College District. Hopefully that wasn't a minute.

20 While California is the top agriculture state in
21 the union, it is also the number one agriculture exporting
22 state with roughly one-sixth of all U.S. ag exports coming
23 from California. Improvements in transportation
24 technology have made the most perishable food products and
25 fishery products produced here successful.

1 Annual estimates from the University of
2 California indicate roughly 25 percent of California
3 agriculture production is exported, and that percentage is
4 much higher for some key products like almonds, cotton and
5 pistachios. To ensure a healthy future for California
6 agriculture, a healthy trade environment is absolutely
7 crucial. Unfortunately, due to policy and budget
8 decisions, California agriculture has been left to fend
9 for itself in the international trade environment.

10 Now, the statistics will indicate that California
11 agriculture exporters have continued to maintain a strong
12 export showing. Much of the strength can be attributed to
13 the California Centers for International Trade and also
14 the federal Market Access Program, known as MAP, which
15 helps fund foreign promotion activities by numerous
16 commodity organizations such as The Almond Board, the Wine
17 Institute and also The Table Grape Commission, just to
18 name a few. But the MAP program does not address key
19 factors which will surely impact California's ability to
20 compete internationally in the future, that is a
21 well-trained workforce that is familiar with international
22 markets, with foreign buyers and the nuts and bolts of
23 getting our food and ag products overseas.

24 In an effort to plug the hole left by the result
25 of the elimination of the state's trade program, the

1 California Centers for International Trade Development
2 entered into a memorandum of agreement with CDFA to assume
3 some of the responsibilities for such activities such as
4 arranging foreign buying teams to visit California
5 suppliers, or training agriculture producers on how to
6 meet foreign import requirements.

7 Over the past three years that this MOA has been
8 in effect, the cooperative effort has organized over 28
9 international trade events that 200 California companies
10 have benefited from. The cooperative works in this
11 manner: CDFA remains the official point of contact for
12 USDA and foreign government contacts while the CATDs, the
13 Centers for International Trade Development, provide a
14 statewide network of resources to implement the activities
15 and maintain close contact with the California food and ag
16 exporters. Through this cooperative effort, food and
17 agriculture producers can gain access to low-cost
18 international marketing opportunities.

19 For example, we recently arranged for a Chinese
20 buying mission to meet with 33 California food companies
21 who had the opportunity to gain first contact with these
22 buyers, and also, you know, showcase their products while
23 gaining valuable feedback on the Chinese market.

24 Another program is the CalAgX, export training
25 certificate program, which recently introduced 35

1 California agriculture producers on all the aspects of
2 selling their products overseas. Participants in this
3 program run the gamut of California agriculture from the
4 small boutiques of EOS Winery in Atascadero, to Bravo
5 Farms cheese among many other companies. We expect each
6 of these companies to begin exporting their product within
7 the year. One other benefit from this cooperative program
8 is that the colleges can work with the CATDs to institute
9 international trade programs on their campuses.

10 But the question before us, will California's ag
11 industry have the skills to compete in the international
12 marketplace when we reach the year 2030? Our recent
13 success shows that it's a definite possibility. Of
14 course, greater state support for exports along with a
15 fervent commitment from the community colleges to fund
16 such programs as the CATDs will help to ensure a healthy
17 California agriculture in the future.

18 Thank you for your time and your support.

19 FACILITATOR PENNY: Okay. Next we have speaker
20 15, Patricia Stever, and then after that will be speakers
21 Amy Heers and Mikaela Serafin.

22 MS. STEVER: Good morning. My name is Patricia
23 Stever. I'm the Executive Director of the Tulare County
24 Farm Bureau. Thank you to the Department of Food and
25 Agriculture, Mr. Secretary, and to Members of the Board

1 for hosting this very important session.

2 Tulare County Farm Bureau has been representing
3 the agriculture community of this county for 92 years.
4 Our mission is to protect and enhance the viability of
5 agriculture.

6 In 2030 the vision of California agriculture I'm
7 afraid could continue to look much like it does today,
8 fighting many of the same battles and trying to overcome
9 some of the same issues that plague our industry. When
10 you look back in time, you can see the water resources,
11 land use and planning coexistence between the urban and
12 rural communities and rising input costs plagued our
13 industry even a hundred years ago. Not much has changed.
14 But what has changed in the past hundred years is our
15 country's desire to place greater emphasis on policing our
16 nation's borders, protecting our country from terrorist
17 threats, protecting our environment, and assuring the
18 consumer that food and fiber products sold in the
19 United States are the safest, most reliable and affordable
20 products sold anywhere in the world.

21 Unfortunately, what the average consumer does not
22 realize is that many of the regulatory laws and rules that
23 have been adopted at all levels, through county, state and
24 federal government, have been very detrimental to
25 California farmers, the most regulated of any farmers in

1 the world. Many of these burdensome regulations have been
2 advanced and enacted without true scientific knowledge
3 about the cause of the problem, and it has placed
4 California farmers at a disadvantage to their
5 counterparts, not only across the United States but around
6 the globe.

7 This over-regulation has made California one of
8 the most unfriendly business states in the nation and it
9 must stop if agriculture is going to remain a viable
10 industry in 2030. It is a problem we must address now,
11 not in 30 years.

12 Our ideal vision for agriculture in 2030 is to be
13 operating and perceived as being progressive and
14 environmentally responsible with the public's perception
15 of us as one of the true stewards of the land. The public
16 will see farmers and ranchers as being environmentally
17 responsible, innovative and progressive, those that are
18 scrubbing the air of toxins and volatile compounds through
19 the production of crops. The public will see agriculture
20 as our most vital natural resource to protect and will
21 understand the importance of protecting ag as a strategic
22 matter of national security.

23 I am reminded of the nation's victory gardens and
24 liberty gardens and the United States School Garden Army
25 Program, which were extremely successful during the first

1 and second world wars in the first part of the 20th
2 century, where we mobilized school-aged children and
3 entire communities to grow their own gardens, to conserve
4 and ration important food and fiber resources, be more
5 environmentally responsible and waste less and conserve
6 more. We need to return to these values and these
7 principles, a garden in every school and a school in every
8 garden.

9 I really truly believe that mandatory agriculture
10 education curriculum for K through 12th grade, continued
11 support and expansion of our school garden programs, our
12 liberty and victory gardens, funding of new and enhanced
13 nutrition education programs, and continued investment in
14 the education of career technical programs such as 4H and
15 FFA need to be championed. We need to reconnect the
16 public and decision makers in agriculture so that our
17 school systems are the building blocks of where this
18 education takes place, and that flows into our communities
19 through our parents, our teachers, our community leaders
20 and our public opinion leaders.

21 There are so many important challenges as part of
22 this vision, of course, land, water, and the flexibility
23 to grow crops that will return a viable investment.
24 Protecting the right to farm will not be as important as
25 protecting the ability to farm. And water, we cannot

1 survive in California without a reliable and consistent
2 supply of water. California is failing to plan and
3 therefore planning to fail in this arena. It is
4 critically important that we help shape water policy and
5 influence decision makers now to invest in infrastructure,
6 conveyance and additional storage throughout the state,
7 and we must stress flexibility.

8 Agriculture is an adaptive and ingenious industry
9 and we will survive, but we need the relief now from
10 over-regulation and radical environmentalism that is
11 driving public policy in California. We are remarkably
12 resilient, ever changing, adaptive and progressive
13 regardless of laws and regulations. The cost of
14 production, changes in climate and weather and natural
15 resources, we will survive, but we need to tell the public
16 this message and we need your help in setting a course for
17 the future that will ensure that agriculture can exist.

18 Thank you.

19 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Next up we have
20 speakers 16, Amy Heers and Mikaela Serafin. And after
21 them will be speaker 17, Brin Hanna.

22 MS. HEERS: Good morning. My name is Amy Heers,
23 and this is Mikaela Serafin. And we are from the Tulare
24 FFA Chapter.

25 First I'd like to thank you for the opportunity

1 to speak to you all today about something that I am very
2 passionate about. Career technical education has been a
3 huge part of my life as well as the over 500,000 high
4 school students across America and over 50,000 in
5 California. Career technical -- I will be attending UCLA
6 in the fall and majoring in nursing, however, career
7 technical education, the lessons that I've learned through
8 it, will help me in my future career as well as other
9 areas of my life.

10 Now, the FFA has a rich tradition that I'm sure
11 most of you know about. It began back in 1928 with just a
12 few farm boys back when over 90 percent of the population
13 was somehow involved in production agriculture. Now,
14 today, agriculture claims less than two percent of the
15 workforce; however, the FFA is the largest youth
16 leadership organization in the entire nation.

17 I've been greatly involved in the FFA, and it can
18 be defined by its three main interlocking circles.
19 There's classroom education; leadership, which involves
20 public speaking and judging teams; and a supervised
21 agriculture experience program, such as raising a crop or
22 livestock. Though it is easy for me to define the FFA to
23 you, the impact that it has had on my life is almost
24 impossible to express.

25 For the past three years, one of the contests

1 that I've been greatly involved in is extemporaneous
2 public speaking, and I will be representing California at
3 the national level in October. Now, extemporaneous public
4 speaking involves drawing a random topic, having 30
5 minutes to prepare a four- to six-minute speech on that
6 topic, and then delivering the speech and being
7 knowledgeable enough to answer five minutes of questions.

8 So through this topic I have researched the many
9 struggles that agriculture is facing today and I have
10 gained a true excitement about what the future holds for
11 agriculture in the year 2030 and how I can get involved in
12 it.

13 Here's Mikaela Serafin, and she will be speaking
14 on the other two circles of agriculture and career
15 technical education.

16 MS. SERAFIN: Classroom education as well as
17 supervised agriculture experience programs are an
18 indescribable component of the FFA organization. Through
19 these two projects, students can learn and utilize life
20 skills that they will be able to use in their future.
21 Whether it's in a classroom setting studying the field of
22 biology or even just working with our market animal,
23 students' lives are impacted. Courses provided through
24 the FFA include biology, chemistry, livestock and even
25 business. The supervised agricultural experience program

1 can be any sort of market animal or crop or directly
2 working with a business that directly has ties to
3 agriculture.

4 Through their commitment and hard work, members'
5 lives can be beneficial through what they have learned in
6 the FFA. Each event in the FFA exercises skills such as
7 public speaking, time management, critical thinking, as
8 well as future job skills.

9 From my own personal experience, I was raised on
10 a family farm, and regardless of what I wanted, I was
11 forced to take an agriculture education course. Up until
12 that point I had no desire to learn about agriculture or
13 my family farm. But once I was formally introduced to
14 agriculture, I immediately submerged myself in career
15 development events, career development events such as the
16 creed speaking as well as parliamentary procedure and
17 livestock judging.

18 Through these career development events, as well
19 as through my advisors, I have begun to love agriculture,
20 for I know it is not the awards or medals that I have
21 received that truly matter, but rather that I'm an
22 advocate for agriculture, a necessity to our livelihood.
23 The FFA is making a positive difference in the lives of
24 its members through premier leadership, personal growth
25 and career success.

1 Today we have heard the struggles that are facing
2 agriculture, and we have set goals in this session for the
3 future. It is important that we continue to educate the
4 future leaders of the agricultural industry. Career
5 technical education must be broadened and strengthened,
6 for it is the foundation for the development of leaders
7 and in an industry that California simply cannot live
8 without.

9 Thank you.

10 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

11 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 17,
12 Brin Hanna. Then we'll go to speaker 18, Teresa De Anda.
13 And then I will let you know that we're going to take a
14 very, very, very brief break after that and I'll tell you
15 how that will work at that point in time.

16 MS. HANNA: Thank you, Carolyn. Good morning,
17 Secretary, Chairman, and the Board. I am Brin Hanna here
18 on behalf of the Ag Biomass Council. Thank you for
19 hosting this forum.

20 I have been following your ag vision tour
21 throughout northern California and hope you take to heart
22 our vision for the future of California. It's important
23 to have a vision, but it's equally as important to
24 visualize the necessary steps it takes to make it a
25 reality. Oftentimes I pull from an old proverb that

1 states, the lighthouse shines and you can see far, but you
2 cannot see at our feet. And at my feet and at our feet as
3 concerned Californians for agricultural land. We must
4 take the next step together. This next step must be
5 towards a self-sustaining, integrated agricultural system
6 throughout California.

7 Here in California we are so fortunate to have an
8 abundance, our diversity in agricultural products that we
9 produce here. We are not limited to a mono-crop like many
10 states in the midwest. Our needs here are different, our
11 daily issues vary from our neighboring states.

12 Efforts towards an integrated system through a
13 California farm bill must be created by Californians in
14 agriculture for Californians in agriculture to address our
15 regional issues. This California farm bill must establish
16 a public funding source for air, water, and soil
17 mitigation projects aimed to help our farmers with
18 compliance, support and self-sufficient farm practices.

19 This California farm bill would integrate air and
20 water quality issues and green waste stream management
21 with biomass technology. This California farm bill would
22 integrate organic soil amendment production domestically
23 with local application to decrease our dependency on
24 imported synthetic fertilizers. This California farm bill
25 would integrate business development and job growth with

1 agriculture. This California farm bill would recreate the
2 agricultural identity of California that has been
3 unrepresented and unacknowledged recently.

4 Though I'm relatively new to agriculture, I too
5 see the shine of the lighthouse. So I ask you Board
6 Members to join us, the Ag Biomass Council, in placing the
7 stepping stones towards an integrated agricultural system
8 for future farmers of California.

9 I thank you for your time.

10 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up is speaker 18, Teresa
11 DeAnda.

12 MS. DeANDA: Next time you have a meeting, you
13 should have it in a bigger room and provide translation
14 for those who are a little bit late signing up, because
15 there was so many that had to sign up and then get their
16 translation gear. But I appreciate the opportunity to be
17 here today and I thank you all for being here.

18 This is a question; I know you can't answer
19 questions right now, but I was wondering how this Board
20 was formed and why community participants can't be there,
21 such as us, the people who work in the community as
22 grassroots organizations or organizations that represent
23 the environmental community.

24 The question is what is your vision for
25 California agriculture by 2030. By 2030 California's

1 agricultural system will continue to provide the diverse
2 and high-quality food and fiber products that it does
3 today, but it will do so with greater respect for human
4 health and the environment. It is time for California to
5 take the lead in pioneering innovative solutions to these
6 problems and ensuring health and agricultural
7 sustainability for years to come.

8 We see CDFA leading this charge with substantial
9 emphasis in ecological pest management, EPM programs.
10 California and its UC system had been a leader in
11 biological control. Let's rebuild that leadership and
12 pest management and environmental stewardship. Invasive
13 species, for example, have and will continue to present
14 serious challenges to maintaining sustainable
15 agroecological systems. Adequate state resources must be
16 provided to agencies at universities to support research,
17 development and implementation of ecological pest
18 management, including biological control methods that rely
19 primarily on native or already established exotic natural
20 enemies.

21 At a time when most of these resources are being
22 heavily funneled into the dead ends of biotechnology, we
23 call for CDFA to look beyond the industrial quick fixes
24 and invest in ecological, robust and socially-secure
25 agricultural communities. This can be achieved by --

1 here's some bullet points: Weaning ourselves from
2 petroleum-based synthetic pesticides. These chemicals,
3 including organophosphates and fumigants, upset natural
4 biological controls, place workers and communities at risk
5 and do not provide long-term solutions to any pest
6 problem.

7 Providing farmers with support for transitioning
8 to organic or ecological pest management systems. The
9 state can play a major role in providing economic
10 incentives and technological support to farmers wishing to
11 transition to more sustainable practices.

12 Increasing small farm viability. Small farmers,
13 when supported with access to and control over resources,
14 hold a special power to provide food security in their
15 local communities based on local knowledge and
16 empowerment. These farmers will be the key to creating a
17 net of agricultural sustainability and security far into
18 the future.

19 Promoting equity with agricultural systems with
20 an emphasis on safety, health and treatment of farm
21 workers. This includes an adequate protection for workers
22 and protections from exposure to pesticide drift for all
23 communities.

24 To the extent possible, implementing fair local,
25 regional and global trade policies that favor small

1 farmers and communities over multinational corporations.

2 And the last bullet is adopting new governance
3 mechanisms that are open, transparent and accommodate
4 democratic participation in decision making.

5 I threw this one in here. Always assess
6 cumulative impacts of different pesticides being used and
7 how the cocktail of drift will affect the health of the
8 public. And I said that because I'm from Earlimart, and
9 in Earlimart in 1999 we had a big pesticide drift where
10 over 180 people were documented as being affected by
11 mentam-sodium, where many people who didn't have asthma
12 the day before, had asthma the next day. The symptoms
13 were many, many people suffering from burning eyes, such
14 as if you rub your eyes with chili, vomiting, coughing,
15 inability to breathe.

16 And then what happened after they were drifted
17 on, they were taken to a football field and told to take
18 off all their clothes, there was 24 of them, and they were
19 hosed down by fire department water hoses. This was in
20 1999. And since then we've learned a lot. We've actually
21 passed legislation in 2004 to improve the pesticide
22 emergency protocol, and then we work very closely with the
23 county agricultural commissioner here to promote the
24 public knowledge of reporting drift always. That's why my
25 particular concern is pesticide drift.

1 Well, just to finish up, we appreciate the
2 invitation to share our vision for a sustainable and
3 secure agricultural future in California with CDFA and
4 stakeholders, however, we wish to emphasize that the
5 changes that we call for are long overdue and the extended
6 timelines characteristic of stakeholder processes will not
7 bring relief quickly enough. We urge CDFA to craft a
8 vision that incorporates these fundamentals of an
9 environmentally and socially-secure agricultural future
10 for California and then implement it to the full extent of
11 your power as quickly as possible.

12 And I just want to say that usually it's the
13 stakeholders at the table talking about all these things,
14 and when the impact is on us, the state getters, so we
15 want to be on that side of the table participating in the
16 devising of any plans that you make.

17 Thank you very much.

18 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. In just a moment
19 I'm going to ask the Board and the Secretary if they would
20 like to take a break. Assuming that a break might be good
21 for everybody, here's how it would work. Speaker 19 is
22 Jeff Rasmussen, speaker 20 is Argelia Flores, speaker 21
23 is Holly King. Whatever time the Board agrees to for the
24 break, they will start with those speakers in that order.
25 So we ask that those speakers come back and be back in the

1 room and ready to go again with whatever time limit the
2 Board and the President and the Secretary want to put on
3 this break.

4 So let me turn to the Secretary and President and
5 get your input on.

6 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Five minutes max.

7 FACILITATOR PENNY: So five-minute break. Next
8 speaker back in the room ready to go again.

9 (Recess.)

10 MR. RASMUSSEN: Good afternoon, and thank you for
11 attending today's seminar. My name is Jeff Rasmussen.
12 I'm a pest control advisor from Bakersfield, California,
13 and I work with Western Farm Service. I'll discuss today
14 the must-have of California agriculture's vision.

15 In the must-haves I believe are the undervalued
16 solutions that I hope you take specific attention to. One
17 is mentorship. In the past, family farms have handed
18 down, trades were developed from one generation to the
19 next. Food was understood the essential for national
20 security. I believe the first one must be mentorship.
21 There are currently 66,000 Future Farmers of America
22 students across this state, and as you heard today, we're
23 losing them to other industries. I strongly believe that
24 mentorship such as in cooperation with the California Ag
25 Leadership Program, this is myself as a fellow or a

1 thousand fellows, you take younger students and people
2 that understand the bigger picture of the local, national,
3 and world views that we must take into account all
4 solutions. Many of these young students are looking
5 forward to going to college, but like I said, they're
6 going to non-agriculture majors. There's no positive
7 sustainable future without -- I'm sorry, I'm getting
8 feedback here -- with agriculture production without the
9 passion, knowledge of future producers.

10 The other undervalued solution is the general
11 public. They do not understand where the food comes from.
12 Last year I took it upon myself to educate at the fair.
13 We needed -- to educate the general public. My solution
14 was simple. Food comes from the farm, not the store. I
15 took six commodities and I took, for example, an almond,
16 and I showed them, yes, we grow a lot of almonds in Kern
17 County, but people do not understand what's in the
18 commodities in the store; such as in almonds, there's
19 candy bars, cereals, health bars, soaps, hand creams,
20 facial products, and most of all ice cream. People do not
21 understand where almonds are produced. They're produced
22 in Kern County. But when they go to the grocery store,
23 they do not understand that the commodities are produced
24 in the products that they buy.

25 This year I've upped it a notch. I could have

1 built the display myself, but understand, looking forward,
2 I think we need to develop a mentorship program with these
3 young students. So I'm working with the Kern County
4 Junior Fair Board. This project, I hope to engage young
5 teenagers providing educational displays that the general
6 public can understand, such as these outside. It's a
7 win-win. I get young students involved displaying to
8 people and the general public at the county fair.

9 Going back to you, Secretary, these are solutions
10 that are parallel. We're taking crossing over of
11 educating young kids, establishing older leadership
12 skills, and we're crossing them over into our county fairs
13 that we can educate the general public.

14 Using in place -- using a system in place that
15 encourages, guides, mentors and supports change in the
16 future, these are rockets, not rocket science solutions.
17 These are systemic solutions at the grassroots level that
18 will sustain California's future.

19 Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Speaker 20,
21 Argelia Flores. After that will be speaker 21, Holly
22 King.

23 MS. FLORES: Good afternoon. My name is Argelia
24 Flores, and I work with United Way of Tulare County. I'm
25 the Program Director for Poder Popular, which is funded

1 through the California Endowment.

2 The vision is that there is for (in Spanish)
3 optimal health in farm worker communities through a health
4 asset based approach that community building efforts have
5 been in development here in Tulare County in Lindsay,
6 Woodlake and Cutler, and we have a sister intensive site
7 in Monterey County.

8 The philosophy and model of Poder Popular has
9 been to encourage and support collaboration among
10 stakeholders in these communities, which include schools,
11 businesses, farm workers, health clinics, and the ag
12 sector, among others. By working together to build on the
13 health capitals that are in communities and that is more
14 inclusive on the decisions made that impact overall
15 community health, working together is going to move us all
16 forward in everything that impacts life in California,
17 impacts housing communities.

18 The health areas of focus, the health assets of
19 focus are community, individual built environmental,
20 financial, economic, political, social, cultural capitals
21 that we've been working towards and saying what do
22 communities have and building on those. And building in
23 alliances and strengthening those alliances, that it's a
24 win-win situation for everyone who is involved in these
25 agricultural communities and that we're working together,

1 not an us and them situation where one's -- it's together.
2 We all live here, we all play here, we all, you know, need
3 to eat here and encourage our communities to stay here,
4 encourage our youngsters to stay here.

5 In preparing some of the comments that you
6 already heard from others, but in my -- I says, I'm going
7 to do an informal survey; so I asked family, I asked
8 community members like firefighters and others, and I
9 says, help me out here, what do we want to say? What's
10 the vision of 2030 for agriculture? And four times out of
11 more than what I want to say, they said, what agriculture?
12 And I didn't want to go there, but that is where people
13 were going. They were talking about everything being
14 computerized, industrialized or had been that things were
15 going to be imported, that everything was not going to be
16 in California, that things were going to be grown out of
17 California and imported in. That's the community right
18 now, in terms of public perception of where agriculture is
19 going, that's the vision.

20 I'm hoping that by our efforts together, by our
21 inclusive efforts, we will look at focusing to change
22 that, and that by inclusive I mean that we're all at the
23 table making, discussing and influencing the decisions
24 that get made that impact our overall community health,
25 which includes eating healthy food, which includes working

1 in safe environments, which includes affordable housing,
2 which includes us being able to live here and buy the food
3 that we help either harvest, plant or -- well, that we can
4 consume it, that is fresh and nutritious and free of a lot
5 of harmful things.

6 I want to -- I'm going to close because this is a
7 lot more nerve-racking than I thought.

8 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: You're doing good.

9 MS. FLORES: So again, I want to emphasize the
10 inclusivity component of the discussions and the
11 decisions. Do not make decisions that influence me
12 without me being at the table. Do not make decisions that
13 influence many of the folks throughout California without
14 their being able to be at the table. And I think we want
15 to make sure that we are living, playing, and working in
16 environments that are of mutual benefit to everyone. A
17 healthy, steady workforce is of mutual benefit to
18 everyone.

19 Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have Holly King.
21 After that we will have speakers 22, Greg and Laurie
22 Schwaller.

23 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Carolyn, Argelia, just as far
24 as being at the table, that's why we made this great
25 effort to get -- start this effort, getting everybody

1 here. The question was asked how do you get to this table
2 earlier by Teresa. I think she's gone. There are 15
3 members of the State Board of Food and Agriculture
4 appointed by the Governor. That starts out by going
5 online to the Governor's website, and I think it's
6 JoinArnold.com. You fill out an application, and that
7 then is vetted through the Governor's office and then
8 eventually appointments are made.

9 There are several public members on this Board.
10 I think Ashley is an environmental member. We have
11 another; Adan Ortega is also an environmental member.
12 Adan's from Los Angeles. And then production agriculture
13 and then our colleges, our representatives of state
14 colleges and our university system, one person each.

15 So we'd encourage anyone to fill out an
16 application and go through the process. And it's an open
17 process. It's a transparent process, and we'd encourage
18 anyone to go through that process for this Board.

19 But we did want to start by inviting all, all
20 stakeholders, including our very valuable agricultural
21 working community, which is primary. And so we hope you
22 appreciate that. We also, we could have done a better job
23 on the translation, we just didn't know we'd have this
24 tremendous turnout. We want to thank our volunteers that
25 stepped forward to help us today, but we'll get better at

1 it as we go along, we guarantee you of that.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. KING: Good afternoon. Thank you, Secretary
4 Kawamura, and the State Board for taking on this activity,
5 because I think a vision for California agriculture is
6 very, very important.

7 My name is Holly King, my perspective is driven
8 by my position at the Great Valley Center as Director of
9 Agricultural Programs, but also as a partner in K&G Farms
10 with my brother, which we farm in the Klamath basin when
11 we have water, and as a principle in King Gardener Farms
12 in Kern County.

13 There are numerous things to think about when
14 we're talking about the future of agriculture, but I want
15 to use my five minutes to focus on agriculture as more
16 than a food-producing industry. While I believe that
17 California agriculture is an essential and strategic asset
18 for our nation because it provides a significant quantity
19 of the food that we consume, I also believe that the other
20 things agriculture provides represent agriculture's
21 opportunity to elevate itself in the minds of the non-farm
22 population.

23 My vision for the industry in 2030 is that more
24 than the people on the farm are engaged or have an
25 understanding of the intricacies of producing a crop. We

1 connect California's urban population to the fundamental
2 reality that food and agriculture in their region is the
3 foundation upon which their lives depend. This frame for
4 agriculture will require work on both sides of the
5 equation.

6 On agriculture's side, thinking about the
7 production and delivery of their product in new ways and
8 actually what their product is; yes, it's food, but it's
9 also water quality and open space and air quality and
10 groundwater recharge and energy production and stewardship
11 services.

12 On the other side of the equation, the non-farm
13 population participating in the cost of providing these
14 services, both in dollars and sacrifices.

15 Additionally, my vision includes California
16 farmland, the most productive farmland in the world being
17 declared an endangered species such that it gains the
18 status it deserves. Because with that status, I believe
19 it will have a better chance of garnering the associated
20 water as well as other resources for production, if, of
21 course, agriculture is contributing to the ecological and
22 social values people are looking for.

23 The biggest challenge in achieving this vision,
24 agriculture recognizing that it is not an industry in and
25 of itself but part of a world whose ecological and social

1 sensitivities have changed right along with the economic
2 realities of the business. The general public has
3 heightened concerns about the environmental and social
4 consequences of agriculture. Our challenge will be to
5 move that needle from negative consequences to positive
6 consequences. We do that and I believe the commitment by
7 non-farm -- if we do that, I believe the commitment by
8 non-farm populations to the resources that produce the
9 benefits inherent in agriculture, food, open space,
10 groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, the list goes
11 on, will follow. This will take out-of-the-box thinking
12 and out-of-the-box action. Trying to do this completely
13 within the existing system we have now is not realistic.
14 After all, doing the same thing and expecting different
15 results is the definition of insanity.

16 In 2030 will the public's perception, what will
17 it look like? This depends on what we do between now and
18 then. If we get people connected to their food so that
19 when they see a tomato on their plate they will
20 subliminally recognize that it took water, people,
21 expertise, open space, air quality to get that tomato to
22 their plate and the tomato is an important ingredient in
23 their good health and that it took good farmland to grow
24 that tomato, we will have done our job.

25 I believe that the quality of a product will

1 include ecological values and attributes. Currently
2 California cannot compete in many crops as a low-cost
3 producer. Value to consumers must be derived from other
4 product attributes such as point of origin, ecological and
5 social values. Until the market compensates for these
6 values, federal and state policy and programs need to
7 offer incentives and compensation to farmers, ranchers and
8 fishermen for providing stewardship services, energy
9 production, water quality protection, recycling of urban
10 waste, et cetera.

11 Some must-haves in ag vision, I'm only going to
12 do two, I've sent these in written. Compensating farmers
13 that are willing to put an easement in perpetuity of their
14 property with a guarantee for water; in other words, pay
15 them with water. Providing opportunities for revenue from
16 on-farm energy production and other value-added services
17 so that they can diversify their income.

18 Thank you very much.

19 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thanks, Holly.

20 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Speakers 22, Greg
21 and Laurie Schwaller. And then next up will be speaker
22 23, Carol Chandler.

23 MS. SCHWALLER: Good afternoon. Thank you for
24 the opportunity to comment on this important subject. My
25 name is Laurie Schwaller. I'm speaking two sets of my

1 comments, myself and my husband Greg. We are residents
2 and concerned citizens of Tulare County. I will try to
3 combine the two sets of comments into the five-minute
4 limit.

5 Agriculture has for decades been Tulare County's
6 economic engine. Our fine climate, rich soils and
7 abundant water supply from groundwater in the Sierra
8 snowpack have enabled our farmers to grow close to 300
9 different crops, to make our county the number one dairy
10 producer in the country, to export products to countries
11 all over the world and to employ tens of thousands of
12 people both directly and indirectly.

13 At the same time our agricultural economy has
14 damaged our air, soil, and water, and has harmed the
15 health of many of our residents, both human and not. It
16 has damaged acres of natural habitat and wetlands and has
17 often wasted quantities of water and soil. It has already
18 created high social costs in our county, not only due to
19 excessive hospitalization rates and premature deaths, but
20 also because farm workers are the lowest paid workers in
21 the country and too often cannot afford decent housing,
22 infrastructure, education, health care, or other social
23 services, despite their great need for them and our great
24 need for farm workers.

25 Now our agricultural economy is threatened by

1 sprawling development, inflated land values, decreasing
2 water supplies, spiraling fuel costs, and global climate
3 change. For the health and viability of our economy, our
4 communities and our natural resources, we must work
5 together to make California agriculture visible, valuable,
6 healthful and sustainable. This means cooperation,
7 collaboration and resource sharing across all sectors.
8 Time is of the essence.

9 Education is a key component of this process.
10 Neither agriculturalists nor consumers can thrive without
11 healthy soil, clean air, and clean water. We almost
12 learned to see the connections between our actions and
13 their impacts and how we can work together to minimize our
14 harmful effects and be better stewards. This means
15 significant budgeting for research, development, and new
16 curricula, bringing agriculture into schools and students
17 into the fields furthering understanding of and
18 appreciation for local production, ensuring that local and
19 regional planners are promoting compact, resource-
20 efficient healthy communities that save room for farmland,
21 native species habitat, and natural hydrological systems,
22 encouraging the general public and public entities such as
23 schools, hospitals, and governments to purchase
24 locally-grown food and serve healthy meals, and ensuring
25 that natural ecosystem services like the bees, are

1 understood and correctly valued and maintained.

2 In order to continue, our agriculture must become
3 sustainable, which means that it must quickly and
4 systematically adopt an integrative and regenerative
5 approach that maximizes leverage of natural biological
6 systems working with and promoting adaptive, biodiverse
7 production that minimizes use of toxic substances and
8 builds and supports healthy soil and restores and supports
9 well-functioning natural hydrologic systems, sustainable
10 practices making agriculture a valued good neighbor that
11 promotes the health of its community.

12 In Tulare County, which often has the worst air
13 quality in the nation, sustainable agricultural practices
14 will also concentrate on reducing output of PM-10 and
15 PM-2.5, methane and toxic chemicals such as pesticides and
16 herbicides. Animal confinement facilities will construct
17 green buildings and install digesters to reduce impacts to
18 air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Agricultural
19 facilities will also stringently monitor their impacts on
20 water quality and implement all best management practices
21 to avert contamination and waste of water supply.

22 The Water Board's test data show that 63 percent
23 of sampled valley dairies have at least one
24 nitrate-polluted well, 40 percent of sampled household
25 wells in Tulare County contain unsafe amounts of nitrate.

1 And more than 20 percent of the county's state regulated
2 public water systems failed the nitrate test. Meanwhile,
3 Tulare County has the greatest amount of groundwater
4 overdraft, 820,000 acre feet per year in the state, a
5 declining snowpack, and a declining groundwater table.
6 This is not sustainable.

7 Tulare County used more than 17 and a half
8 million pounds of pesticides in 2005, the third highest
9 use of any county in California. Pesticides banned
10 decades ago are still found in our soil, residues are
11 found in fish in Tulare County's Sequoia and Kings Canyon
12 National Parks, whose air quality is often the worst of
13 all the nation's parks.

14 To be sustainable, agriculture must meet air
15 quality goals and help to meet the requirements of AB32.
16 Public programs should reward agriculturalists who provide
17 stewardship services, including conservation and
18 enhancement of habitat and natural hydrological systems,
19 and penalize those who do not.

20 Local and state jurisdictions should also work
21 actively to enable sustainable agriculture by establishing
22 funding and enforcing mitigation programs to permanently
23 conserve farmland, including rangeland, watersheds and
24 wetlands and habitat.

25 I don't know whether I can use some of Greg's

1 five minutes. If not, I'll just email in the rest of the
2 comments.

3 FACILITATOR PENNY: Anyone is welcome to mail in
4 or email in the comments. As far as continuing on, I'm
5 going to look to the Board for some help. I'll let you
6 know we're not halfway through the list of speakers yet.

7 MS. SCHWALLER: Thank you for the opportunity.

8 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you for your comments.

9 FACILITATOR PENNY: Speaker 23 is Carol Chandler.
10 Speaker 24 will be Ralph Mendes.

11 MS. CHANDLER: Good afternoon. My name is Carol
12 Chandler, and my family farms tree fruit, grapes and
13 almonds in Fresno County near Selma. And our farm has
14 been in the family for three generations and we hope to
15 continue on to the next generation.

16 Without an adequate and dependable supply of
17 water, the future of agriculture in our great state is dim
18 as best. 40 years ago Governor Pat Brown was able to
19 build water projects that still serve us today. We cannot
20 afford to wait another 40 years to pass a water bond that
21 will provide the storage and conveyance that is needed to
22 sustain a growing population and our agriculture industry.
23 We need a water bond now in order to project what
24 agriculture will look like in 2030.

25 It's a strong possibility that California

1 farmland will continue to go out of production in the
2 coming decades. Lack of a sufficient water supply first
3 leads to the fallowing of acres of farmland, as we've seen
4 this year on the west side of San Joaquin Valley. Farmers
5 may be growing crops on fewer acres, but once land is out
6 of production, it is on track to be developed; then this
7 valuable resource is lost forever.

8 Contributing to the potential reduction in farms
9 and farmland is the overall cost of doing business in
10 California. Yes, farming is a business. When our family
11 invests time, energy and financial resources in tree
12 fruit, vines and almonds, we hope the crops they produce
13 yield a profit to allow us to stay in business. However,
14 a spade of regulations and layered mandates drive the
15 costs up tremendously and often make profits unachievable.
16 For example, many of the air quality regulations imposed
17 by the Air Resources Board will have a huge negative
18 economic impact on farms in California.

19 When diesel farm truck engines that are only used
20 during a few months of harvest must be retrofitted and
21 then replaced within a few years, it is a great financial
22 burden. Unintended consequences of overregulation could
23 be abandoned farms, reliance on a foreign food supply and
24 a negative economic impact on the budget of our state.
25 Retaining tax exemptions for off-road diesel engines and

1 farm equipment will provide some relief.

2 Our family farm has been in business since 1889,
3 Bill and I hope that our two sons will be able to continue
4 in the farming business, but the future of agriculture in
5 California is uncertain. We take pride in the quality of
6 crops we produce and hope that we can carry on farming in
7 our fertile valley for years to come.

8 In closing, I'd like to thank our university
9 partners that give us the tools and innovation to help
10 California agriculture to stay competitive in a world
11 market.

12 Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you.
13 We look forward to you to give us the roadmap for the
14 future of agriculture in California. Thank you.

15 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thanks, Carol.

16 FACILITATOR PENNY: Speaker 24, Ralph Mendes.
17 Then will be speaker 25, Jim Sullins.

18 MR. MENDES: My name is Ralph Mendes. I'm an
19 agriculture educator from Bakersfield, California. I've
20 been teaching for about 30 years. I'm also an Advisory
21 Board Member for the California State Future Farmers of
22 America.

23 My vision, what I see as a vision for agriculture
24 for 2030 cannot -- can't not include education. And we
25 saw an example of that today with some of these students.

1 I started teaching ag in the early eighties, and at that
2 point agriculture education at the high school level,
3 there were 17,000 ag students in California. And ag was
4 looked at -- ag education was looked at as a place where
5 you put the kids that nobody else wanted, and the word
6 vocational education meant not going to college.

7 And my grandparents immigrated to California in
8 the forties from the Azores, and they didn't speak or read
9 or write English, and they worked this agriculture. And
10 my father, who dropped out of school to work in
11 agriculture, could speak English very well but couldn't
12 read or write. So they made sure that I got through high
13 school and got to college and was very fortunate enough to
14 go to agriculture college at Cal Poly and through junior
15 college at Santa Rosa Junior College, and just swerved
16 into ag education. And I enjoyed it because I enjoy
17 working with the youth.

18 But I was always perplexed with the negative
19 stereotype of education, of agricultural education amongst
20 the educational community. And California Department of
21 Education has provisions for ag education, but it doesn't
22 seem to get that much support when you're looking through
23 A through G requirements and reading and writing scores in
24 California and testing. And so my encouragement would be
25 for this Board to adopt the Future Farmers of America Ag

1 Education in California and to help provide for that.

2 I would like to see an ag educator on your Board.

3 I would like to see your Board financially support the
4 California FFA Center, which has recently been built in
5 Galt, California with the help of the 64,000 FFA members
6 in California and a lot of businesses. There's a \$5
7 million plan to build the FFA center in Galt, California.
8 Today there are 64,000 FFA members. When I started
9 teaching there were 17,000 FFA members.

10 My high school in particular is -- started an
11 experiment about 15 years ago to make our agricultural
12 program college prep. Today to be successful in
13 agriculture, you have to go to college, you have to go to
14 at least two years of junior college and study something
15 specific. To become a professional in agriculture, we
16 know that you have to go to a four-year college to gain
17 some knowledge and experience in something other than
18 maybe just farming. Farming is a very small part of
19 agricultural education.

20 Recently we had some students from Bakersfield,
21 my high school, that won the national championship in
22 parliamentary procedure. The young members that we teach
23 in high school today are going to go back onto the farm,
24 but they're also going to go into the science labs and
25 develop safer chemicals, they're going to be members of

1 boards, they're going to be salespeople, they're going to
2 be teachers like myself. And I can't envision an
3 agriculture in 2030 that doesn't have us supporting
4 agricultural education in California.

5 That's my comments. And I thank you for the time
6 to be able to present.

7 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Next up we have
8 Jim Sullins. And after Jim Sullins will be John Harris.

9 PRESIDENT MONTANA: Ralph, Dr. Dave Wehner is on
10 our Board as you know, Dean of Ag at Cal Poly, former head
11 of the Horticulture Department, former educator; so you
12 might communicate with Dave your further thoughts.

13 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I'm going to interrupt you,
14 Jim, just a second, also to make a comment.

15 Many of you, and it's been mentioned today,
16 there's that three-legged stool that people talk about of
17 sustainability, the three Es. It's equity, in the social
18 arena; economics, viability of an economic activity,
19 profitability; and environmental. Those are the three Es
20 of sustainability that people talk about all the time.

21 We've certainly realized that there's a missing
22 E, and that missing E is education. And whether it's in
23 the form of research or the career tech education, our
24 outreach to the public, that last E, which makes it not a
25 stool, but a platform, a very stable platform, that's what

1 we continue to talk about what agriculture has to be all
2 about, embracing those four components.

3 So thanks for your comments.

4 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Okay, Jim.

5 MR. SULLINS: Thank you, Secretary Kawamura and
6 Chairman Montna and Members of the Board. And I'd be
7 remiss if I didn't welcome my new boss, Vice-President
8 Dooley. And we've had some people talk about being under
9 pressure; there's nothing like having your boss sitting on
10 the Board that you're talking to.

11 And a warm welcome to Tulare County, we don't
12 have any choice in July. So but it's better than
13 sometimes the cold weather in February.

14 When we talk about looking at a vision for ag in
15 2030, it gets real difficult to talk about that and trying
16 to look at a forest and not be overcome by the trees, and
17 we've talked about a lot of trees today. We've talked
18 about a lot of the hindrances that we've had. But I think
19 we have to take some of the assumptions, whether we like
20 it or not, and look at what ag in 2030 may look like in
21 Tulare County and southern San Joaquin Valley.

22 We know we're going to have a growing population
23 that are looking for low-cost housing. We know that we're
24 going to have more and greater demands on our water
25 system, either environmentally, municipal water, and other

1 demands that we may not even foresee today. And we're
2 going to be continuing to have impact on this growth on
3 air quality. And we're in severe danger in agriculture in
4 the southern San Joaquin Valley being the mitigation bank
5 for all of these changes. We see that today.

6 But I'd like to offer up a vision for ag in
7 southern San Joaquin Valley, particularly Tulare County.
8 An agriculture that remains productive on less water,
9 farmers that farm with less impact on air quality and are
10 only held responsible proportional to the amount of air
11 quality impact that they have, the success by farms in an
12 increasingly urban and environmentally-challenged valley.
13 I see an agriculture that will remain diverse not only in
14 crops and products but also in size and production
15 methods. We need to welcome an agriculture that is both
16 large, medium, small, organic, and also traditional, but
17 they all must be sustainable.

18 Let me diverge a little bit to a story. This
19 story comes from the recent retirement of my viticulture
20 advisor in Tulare County. I asked him to give a summary
21 of his career, 36 years of being a cooperative extension
22 advisor in Tulare County. He started in 1972, '73, and he
23 was part of the team, the agricultural science team that
24 brought drip irrigation to viticulture in Tulare County.
25 They developed drip education. And as you'll note today

1 when you go and see a vineyard, there's hardly a vineyard
2 out there that has not adopted drip irrigation.

3 They developed how to manage drip irrigation and
4 how to fertilize with drip irrigation; but those teams
5 coupled with USDA and the partnership of the industry also
6 developed new vines, new cultural practices, new
7 trellising techniques. It's been a complete progression
8 over those 30 years. But the bottom line is that
9 viticulture in the southern San Joaquin Valley today has
10 four times the yield per acre with half the water. It's
11 hard to see how that journey gets there, but that
12 partnership was science and industry. And tomorrow's
13 future and in this blueprint it's going to be critical
14 that it is strong in science and strong in partnerships.
15 We have to have a partnership with science, industry,
16 policy, and the consumer. We have to find those answers
17 in all four of those arenas to be viable in 2030.

18 That's under my must-have, and that's what I see
19 for a successful ag in the San Joaquin Valley from my
20 perspective. And, of course, that's as a UC member. And
21 I welcome all of our ag schools and recognize that it's
22 not just a land grant university that can contribute to
23 these successes, but we're going to have to get past many
24 obstacles on the way, but I hope your blueprint includes
25 strengthening science along the way.

1 And by the way, Dan, I have no idea when I'm
2 going to be able to fill that position of that viticulture
3 advisor.

4 BOARD MEMBER DOOLEY: First comes the bragging
5 and then the begging.

6 FACILITATOR PENNY: All right. Up next we have
7 John Harris. And after John Harris will be Karri
8 Hammerstrom.

9 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon. I'm John Harris. I
10 farm and ranch and been in Fresno County, raised a bunch
11 of different crops and have for a long time. Also the
12 feed business, the restaurant business, and horse
13 business.

14 Today you're hearing a lot of good ideas of high
15 importance in the success of California agriculture. A
16 way for a need for better water, research, education
17 programs, good infrastructure; all these things are really
18 important and I endorse. But one of the -- I realize it's
19 not supposed to be a gripe session, which probably these
20 things end up being, but that's what we like to do mainly,
21 is gripe, but a lot of them are legitimate though.

22 And one of the things that I really don't like
23 and I think it's holding agriculture back is the
24 Endangered Species Act, which I think conceptually it was
25 okay. It was signed into law back in 1972, actually by

1 President Nixon, and to encourage biological diversity,
2 but its application has been narrowed so much that it's
3 led to catastrophic results for so many areas of
4 agriculture, it's really impacted the economy, and it's
5 getting worse all the time. And the roll out going
6 forward could be devastating to California agriculture and
7 really shut us down if we just keep going the way we are.

8 The recent Delta Smelt Order, which I think the
9 judge was somewhat limited to what he could rule there due
10 to the law, it really restricted pumping of any water out
11 of the Delta to come south through that California
12 aqueduct which supplies millions of acres of farmland and
13 millions of urban consumers to protect a fish that's about
14 two or three inches long and it was listed as threatened
15 in 1993. And there are many factors that have impacted
16 the Delta Smelt besides the pumping, but the pumping seems
17 to have taken all the brunt of the cutbacks.

18 I feel that we could be pumping a lot more out of
19 the Delta and to be supplied a lot more water if better
20 science was applied and there was a balancing mechanism in
21 place to really decide what the pumping was doing versus
22 all the other impacts and if there was enough positives
23 getting the water here, which I think there are, to
24 justify a slight increase in the amount of takings of the
25 Smelt themselves. There's a lot of invasive species in

1 the Delta, like the striped bass, that are probably eating
2 a lot more Delta Smelt than we're ever going to grind up
3 in the pumps.

4 So we're all these water users, which is
5 literally thousands of farms and hundreds of thousands of
6 farm employees have taken a big hit, and we've got to
7 figure out what we're going to do about that because it
8 also greatly stymies any water transfers throughout
9 California; because most of the water in California is in
10 northern California, there's no way we can get it to
11 southern California without some way getting it through
12 the Delta in a way that will be acceptable.

13 I think obviously we need a peripheral canal with
14 additional surface storage and all these things. But if
15 some of these Endangered Species Act decisions keep going,
16 even some of those things aren't going to help.

17 Another negative impact which is more local is
18 something that happened here this spring. Since 1943
19 there has been an assessment program for growers to pay
20 into; it's called a Curly Top Virus Control Program. We
21 all pay -- tomato growers pay 12 cents a ton. And they
22 raised about a million and a half a year, that it's all
23 paid for by growers. And the State of California doesn't
24 pay for any of it, though they do reimburse CDFA who
25 basically runs it.

1 And we're happy with the way overall it's been
2 run, but this year they were never able to get a permit
3 from fish and wildlife to spray the western side of the --
4 basically the foothills out here just west of where all
5 the farmland is, which are the habitat for a lot of leaf
6 hoppers in the spring, and they dried up early in the
7 spring, and these leaf hoppers move into the crops and
8 really devastated a lot of crops because they carry a
9 virus called the Curly Top Virus.

10 Where traditionally, you know, over, literally,
11 almost 65 years they had this spraying program going which
12 could control at least to some extent the leaf hoppers,
13 and it's been a very sound program; but somehow fish and
14 wildlife would never give effectively the program, through
15 CDFA, the permit they need needed to spray because it's
16 also kit fox habitat, and they took the attitude that you
17 couldn't spray any pesticides, or particularly this one,
18 which was malathion, which was pretty safe, in this
19 habitat. And they kept delaying and delaying and
20 delaying. And we didn't even find out they weren't going
21 to spray until we had already had the tomatoes planted.
22 So we lost, you know, 300 acres, just ourselves, of --
23 actually, organic tomatoes because we couldn't spray them
24 either once the leaf hoppers got in them.

25 But agriculture needs to figure some way to stand

1 up for ourself better and really fight back. I think we
2 have -- obviously a law's a law, but there needs to be
3 more sound science going into some of these decisions and
4 we need more people on our team that will really fight for
5 the farmer, because otherwise I'm just concerned that
6 going forward that we're going to be a -- the whole farm
7 agriculture industry, despite all the good things we've
8 got going for it, could just be a shadow of its former
9 self because we've got so many restrictions that we don't
10 have any water, we can't spray, we can't do anything.

11 Regardless, I wouldn't care if there was sound
12 science saying that you just can't do this because you're
13 really going to hurt something, but a lot of it is just
14 the whim of some bureaucrat that's kind of faceless out
15 there somewhere that is keeping us from moving forward.
16 We don't want to hurt any species or don't want to hurt
17 anybody, but we've got to move forward. And I think CDFA
18 needs to take a hard look at how -- what we're doing
19 within agriculture to better mitigate and combat some of
20 these bad impacts of ESA.

21 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have Karri
22 Hammerstrom. And then after Karri Hammerstrom will be
23 Chuck Tarbell.

24 MS. HAMMERSTROM: Good afternoon. I'm Karri
25 Hammerstrom. I'm second Vice-President of the California

1 Women for Agriculture. I'm also a small central valley
2 stone fruit and alfalfa grower.

3 On behalf of California Women for Ag and our over
4 2500 member volunteers, we want to thank you for holding
5 these listening sessions to talk about ag's promise beyond
6 the year 2030.

7 CWA is the largest and most active all volunteer
8 grassroots nonpartisan agricultural support organization
9 in the State of California. Established in 1975, our
10 membership is comprised of men and women from ag and
11 non-ag backgrounds and professions and consumers. CWA
12 believes that California agriculture is the fundamental
13 cornerstone for the country's health and national security
14 and that agriculture needs to be California's number one
15 priority.

16 CWA is committed to maintaining a healthy and
17 vibrant industry for California and our nation. CWA is
18 dedicated to ensuring that a local, reliable food supply
19 continues to be the foundation of our state's economy for
20 future generations. We must not rely on foreign nations
21 for our food or be held hostage by outsourcing our food
22 production. Planning for agriculture's success should be
23 the number one priority at every level of government.

24 Today you've asked the public and the industry
25 for our 2030 vision for California agriculture, the

1 must-haves, and the challenges which we believe are
2 intimately intertwined. CWA shares a vision that
3 California agriculture must be respected and protected for
4 future generations, not because we want to cling to an
5 unrealistic obsolete folklore, but because we believe our
6 nation's security demands a safe, abundant, domestic food
7 supply.

8 At the risk of sounding a little Pollyanna, we
9 envision 2030 agriculture to be healthy and vibrant, where
10 farms fields and ranches are actively producing food,
11 fiber, floral, and fuel for our country and the world,
12 where we have access to water, labor, technology,
13 biotechnology, markets, capital, and realistic
14 science-based regulations, where the elements of public
15 policy, environmental protection, social equity, animal
16 rights no longer threaten our agriculturalists but rather
17 work hand in hand with our farmers and ranchers amenably
18 with the community and the environmentalists.

19 However, before we can make that dream a reality,
20 we must make sure that the agriculture industry will still
21 be here in years 2010 and 2020, and because of this, our
22 vision also embodies some of the biggest challenges that
23 we consider the must-haves for sustainable industry.

24 It is an industry that we currently consider to
25 be environmentally sound and socially equitable, however,

1 it must be also economically feasible today in order to
2 continue to be vibrant and healthy in 2030.

3 The California Food and Ag Code Section 821 reads
4 as follows: As part of promoting and protecting the ag
5 industry for the state and for the protection and public
6 health safety and welfare, the legislature shall provide
7 for a continuing sound and healthy agriculture in
8 California and shall encourage productive and profitable
9 agriculture. Unfortunately, most of the ag-related
10 legislation in the past few years has had little or
11 nothing to do with continuing a sound and healthy
12 agriculture in California, much less encourage a
13 productive and profitable agriculture.

14 As an agriculture organization whose members are
15 on the front lines of implementing legislation, we often
16 feel we go at it alone and we are frustrated by the urban
17 disconnect and lack of sound policy support from our
18 government. Social and environmental equity must be based
19 upon sound science that takes into account our human needs
20 and conditions as part of the ecosystem. Scare tactics,
21 irresponsible rhetoric and threat of litigation cannot
22 lead public policy decisions. All facets of our diverse
23 industry, from conventional to organic and all the 350
24 commodities that we grow should be regarded and respected
25 as productive agriculture, as part of our roots and

1 heritage and too valuable to lose in the state or country.

2 California agriculture provides access to
3 wholesome nutrition. California agriculture is
4 instrumental in nature's ecosystem and protects the
5 environment. California agriculture fortifies our
6 homeland security providing a domestic food supply and
7 jobs. Unfortunately, if the current pendulum continues to
8 swing, climate change and global warming will pale in
9 comparison to what will happen, because agriculture in our
10 state and country will be nonexistent.

11 With loss of national ag land of over one million
12 acres a year to urban development, it is not far-fetching
13 to anticipate that any remaining food or fiber produced in
14 our country will be scarce and coveted by those fortunate
15 to have access to it. The only remaining trace of
16 agriculture will be in history books.

17 Loss of a domestic food supply will mean that
18 healthy food, safe food will not be accessible to most
19 people. Food safety issues will become more commonplace
20 and difficult to overcome because of the lack of control
21 over foreign imports. Our economy will regress as we
22 become a nation without a domestic food supply. Doesn't
23 that sound hauntingly familiar to a lack of domestic
24 energy supply?

25 California agriculture is important. Government

1 and public apathy about agriculture is reckless and lacks
2 foresight. There needs to be universal recognition of
3 ag's importance. Unrealistic and unfeasible regulations
4 need to become science-based, realistic and implementable.
5 Wrangling over immigration needs to cease and ag jobs need
6 to be implemented.

7 Crop research, biotechnology, acceptance and
8 increased efficiencies need to occur. Voluntary
9 preservation of ag land needs to become more routine. In
10 the last months it has become painfully clear that we need
11 a comprehensive water solution. We can't take California
12 agriculture for granted, we must plan for the future, we
13 believe that we need to protect this for future supplies.

14 Public policy needs to ensure the availability of
15 water, land, technology, markets and labor sufficient to
16 allow our farmers and ranchers to continue to produce
17 profitably safeguarding our ability to feed ourselves.
18 And we look forward to being part of that solution and
19 helping CDFA in make taking the visions and putting them
20 into a plan.

21 In closing, CWA knows that California agriculture
22 must remain the fundamental cornerstone of our state and
23 nation's health and national security. Our vision is not
24 unique or impossible to accomplish, however, if we take
25 this path that we're taking right now, like with our

1 current water supplies, agriculture will be nothing more
2 than a vanishing mirage. We deserve better, our children
3 deserve better, and we know we can do better.

4 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thanks, Karri.

5 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

6 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, Chuck Tarbell. And
7 after Chuck Tarbell is Manuela Gonzales.

8 MR. TARBELL: Good afternoon. I'm Chuck Tarbell,
9 third-generation cattle ranching in Tulare County. I'm
10 currently President of Tulare County Cattlemen's
11 Association. I too would like to thank the Department for
12 giving us this opportunity to voice some of our concerns
13 as we prepare for the future.

14 We have a different set of issues than when our
15 grandfathers ran their businesses. We operate in a global
16 world, we face global economics, we're concerned about
17 water rights, water pollution, dust control, air
18 pollution, urban sprawl, disease surveillance, and food
19 safety.

20 Cattle ranchers own or manage 30 million acres in
21 California, we are a large industry. It's important to
22 maintain the livelihood of these ranching families who
23 provide stewardship and economic support for our state's
24 lands, our water resources, wildlife and communities.
25 California agriculture and California beef industry in

1 particular will remain world leaders in innovations and
2 production of safe and healthy products.

3 As of January 1st, the nation's cow herd was the
4 smallest in four decades. Input cost is soaring. Between
5 urban sprawl and acres being converted to farming,
6 rangeland is shrinking. The age of cattle producers
7 continue to climb as does the equity requirements to get
8 in at entry level in this business. There will be fewer
9 of us grazing on less land, and we must continue to be
10 innovative and adapt to new ideas and practices with
11 better genetic supplements and management skills. We are
12 producing more beef today than ever on less range and with
13 the smallest cow herd since the 1970s.

14 Continuing the trend toward a global marketplace,
15 increased emphasis on trade abroad and demand for products
16 produced overseas as well as foreign investment in the
17 cattle processing facilities in recent years, California
18 producers will be raising beef not only for the
19 United States but for consumers all over the world. To
20 continue to be a successful industry, we will need more
21 certainty in the production environment, economically and
22 regulatory, to allow producers to focus on the business at
23 hand rather than concerns about decisions made in
24 government that limit availability of land and water
25 resources upon which food production depends.

1 The foremost challenge is the lack of
2 understanding by the average person of the challenge of
3 agriculture and the value of our safe, stable, and
4 affordable food supply. Improved awareness from the
5 general public will be the only thing that stems the
6 attacks from the interest groups on our family farms and
7 ranches that make it significantly more difficult to
8 operate a successful business here in comparison to
9 neighboring states or other countries.

10 Another challenge is in the current trend in
11 California of land and water use and conversion largely to
12 development and municipalities. The Williamson Act has
13 been an important instrument in keeping agricultural land
14 in agriculture through tax benefits. Those of us who
15 remain in this business are subject to the world's
16 foremost regulatory regime.

17 A series of requirements and exclusions that
18 dictate production practices increase production costs in
19 our state more than any other in the world. Should the
20 environment become continuously more difficult, keeping
21 producers here itself will be a challenge. Farmers and
22 ranchers are price takers in a competitive market, not
23 price makers. Many have found it easier to move their
24 operations to other more welcoming environments than to
25 continue in California.

1 Fewer and fewer Americans have any connection to
2 the food they eat, therefore, the respect and
3 understanding of the importance of agriculture and the
4 availability of safe and affordable food has diminished as
5 well. Recent trends towards awareness have seen some
6 increase and interest in food production, but not yet at a
7 level required to provide any real change. This must
8 occur.

9 It is critical that any vision for the future of
10 California agriculture include public education of those
11 who don't realize how their lives are positively affected
12 by those of us in agriculture. The one perception that
13 must be realized is that the farmers and ranchers work
14 every day to adapt to a changing environment given the
15 significant challenges facing agriculture today. Many
16 farms and ranches that have operated in this state for
17 generations may not last if we don't see some relief.

18 Thank you.

19 FACILITATOR PENNY: Up next we have speaker 28,
20 Manuela Gonzales. After that will be speaker 29, Paola
21 Fernandez.

22 You may notice that we're now at a few minutes
23 after 1:00. Let me check in with the Board.

24 My expectation is that the Board's commitment is
25 to stay here and continue to listen to the speakers who

1 have signed up.

2 If you need to go and would like to submit your
3 comment in writing, you can feel free to do that as a way
4 to make sure your comments get submitted today or on the
5 website.

6 Let me check in with the Board about your sense
7 of timing.

8 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Yes, Carolyn, we'll just
9 proceed. Individual Board Members may leave the room for
10 whatever needs for a moment and return, so no one should
11 be offended; but let's in the best interest of everyone's
12 time, let's keep the testimony going, okay?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where do we submit our
14 written comments?

15 FACILITATOR PENNY: If folks want to submit
16 written comments, you want to submit them today, perhaps
17 we could have Shawn Cooper who's at the door --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Also, there's a box at the
19 registration table that says ag testimony, and anyone can
20 put their comments in there, or email to the ag vision
21 website.

22 MS. GONZALES: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Manuela Gonzales, and I am here from Lamont, California
24 from the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

25 As we know, the quality of air in the central

1 valley is one of the worst of the nation. You are in the
2 position to make a recommendation to farmers to change, to
3 change the practices that they currently have and to
4 implement new methods to improve the air quality.

5 Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

7 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up is speaker 29, Paola
8 Fernandez. After that will be speaker 30, Maria
9 Hernandez.

10 MS. FERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Paola
11 Fernandez. And I am working with Dolores Huerta
12 Foundation and Vecinos Unidos. I'm the Poder Popular
13 Program Manager that is funded by the California
14 Endowment.

15 That being said, I just agree with a lot of the
16 comments that have been said today that pertain to farm
17 workers and how their lives could be bettered through some
18 other practices, like better housing or better wages and
19 things of that nature.

20 But what I want to focus on right now is that, as
21 we know, farm workers can only work seasonally. It is
22 extremely difficult for them to provide for their families
23 when they are not working. It is essential that they be
24 able to have access to food when they are not working, and
25 this can be achieved by the following: The funds for the

1 food bank need to be expanded and provided to rural
2 communities. When the funds ran out after the last citrus
3 freeze, many farm workers had difficulty feeding their
4 families.

5 There should be assistance from the U.S. Food and
6 Agriculture to create community gardens which would allow
7 farm workers to keep the majority of the food that they
8 harvest. Also in collaboration with the U.S. Food and
9 Agriculture, farm workers could be taught how to preserve
10 food. For example, farm workers could learn how to can,
11 freeze, and dry food.

12 And that will be all of my comments for today.
13 Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT MONTANA: Thank you.

15 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up Maria Hernandez.
16 After that, Eva Ramirez.

17 MS. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Maria
18 Hernandez. I am a member of Vecinos Unidos through the
19 Dolores Huerta Foundation. My vision right now for the
20 agriculture in California in 2030 is that there will be
21 more deaths because of illegal use of pesticides. I would
22 like for there to be some type of action before 2030,
23 before 2020, that we could expect a future for our
24 children and farm workers, that decisions and action be
25 taken before 2020 that would change the use of illegal

1 pesticides. If not, we will see that there's an increase
2 in people who are ailing from asthma.

3 We all do think about the damages of pesticides
4 in our communities, in our food products, but there is
5 little focus on our farm workers who are the most
6 impacted. Hopefully something is done before 2020, 2030;
7 but I hope that you as directors will take some action
8 soon.

9 Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

11 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, Eva Ramirez. After
12 that, Enfrocina Ordaz.

13 MS. RAMIREZ: Good afternoon. My name is Eva
14 Ramirez. And I am with the Dolores Huerta Foundation
15 group, Vecinos Unidos.

16 I would like to share the following comment,
17 which is that agricultural workers need to have safe and
18 confident transportation. This service should be provided
19 by either the city or the county, depending on where they
20 live. The drivers should also be provided by the city
21 and/or county. This would be of mutual benefit to the
22 worker and the employer because workers will be able to
23 consistently be at work and the employer will have workers
24 that are on time.

25 Thank you. And thank you for allowing me to

1 share my comments.

2 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

3 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, Enfrocina Ordaz,
4 then Jose Lara.

5 MS. ORDAZ: Good afternoon. My name is Enfrocina
6 Ordaz. I am an organizer in Lamont with the Dolores
7 Huerta Foundation and the Poder Popular Program.

8 We would like to see before 2020, 2030, that
9 there would be a training on agriculture for youth. It is
10 important to implement a program that would allow youth to
11 work in agriculture during the summer. There are few jobs
12 available to youth in the central valley, and agricultural
13 work is one of the honorable and good works available to
14 youth. By employing youth they will be able to focus
15 their energy on positive activities.

16 The practices by many farmers is not to employ
17 native residents because of their age, and this could be
18 changed formally so that they would consider having youth
19 employed in agriculture. This would benefit the community
20 and the farmer. The community will benefit because youth
21 will have employment, and without this opportunity perhaps
22 they would be shifting their energy to maybe something
23 less positive. The workers would also have a bigger base
24 from which they -- the farmers would also have a much
25 bigger base from which they could hire persons to work and

1 to take the crops.

2 And I would like to add that it would be a good
3 opportunity for youth during the summer and that would be
4 a good opportunity for youth to be involved in the
5 summertime, given that a lot of times there's limited
6 employment in stores and/or other opportunities, and this
7 would give them a way of getting rid of some of that
8 energy that might get them into negative consequences.

9 Remembering that our youth is our future. Thank
10 you.

11 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

12 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next is Jose Lara, speaker
13 33. Then we have speaker 34, Maria Yopez.

14 MR. LARA: Good afternoon. I am here from the
15 community of Arvin. My community is here to share these
16 thoughts.

17 Agriculture in California is preeminent not only
18 locally in the state but worldwide. It is important to
19 also take into account the human factor. Not only is the
20 human factor critical and important for us to take into
21 consideration because without their sweat and labor many
22 of the crops would not be harvested.

23 Many times an agricultural worker is employed
24 without actually knowing who their actual boss is and does
25 not know who to go to when there is an instance to make a

1 report for mistreatment. And on occasions the check that
2 they are given weekly is good, that is to say when they go
3 to cash it, it is returned for no funds available.

4 I come here to advocate for the human sector and
5 that we take into account those reasons that as much as
6 the contractors as the farmers, that they take into
7 consideration and recognize that labor and give the farm
8 worker what is his due.

9 I thank you for your time.

10 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

11 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up Maria Ramirez,
12 speaker 34, and after that will be Maria Yepez.

13 So speaker 34, Maria Ramirez passes because her
14 comments have already been made, so we're going on to
15 speaker 35, Maria Yepez. After that, the next person up
16 will be Timoteo Prado.

17 MS. YEPEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Maria
18 Yepez. I work with the Dolores Huerta Foundation with the
19 Poder Popular Program.

20 We all understand the value and importance of
21 having pest control to have healthy crops, but it's also
22 important that what's also important is the health of the
23 farm worker. It is very important for us to know what
24 type of pesticides, what types of chemicals are going onto
25 the fields. One suggestion would be that we develop or

1 that organic pesticides are developed. This would also be
2 a benefit because many workers and families would be less
3 exposed or less -- would have less -- well, would be --
4 there would be less diagnosis of asthma or valley fever.

5 I have a child that has valley fever, and when I
6 go to the clinics, I see very -- huge amount of people
7 that have valley fever. And it's very heartbreaking to
8 see the many children that are suffering from either
9 asthma and/or valley fever, and seeing that as they are
10 coming, many folks to the clinics are sometimes not able
11 to walk due to the conditions and/or the symptoms of their
12 illnesses. So I would ask you to look at looking at
13 whatever you may be able to do to change that would impact
14 the number of folks that are becoming ill with either
15 asthma or valley fever.

16 Thank you.

17 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, 36, Timoteo Prado.
19 After that, speaker 37, Francis Macias.

20 MR. PRADO: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is
21 Timoteo Prado, and I come from the community of Arvin.
22 And I also work with Poder Popular.

23 I've heard many comments this morning from
24 farmers in the citrus industry, pistachios, almonds, all
25 industry in general. And we are talking about a vision

1 for the year 2030, but I am not sure that in the year 2030
2 there will still be agricultural workers.

3 This afternoon I would like to ask you, you and
4 us that have the power, to see if we could obtain a permit
5 for agricultural workers; the workers would benefit, the
6 farmers would benefit because their crops would be
7 produced and harvested. And that would be of great
8 benefit to the whole State of California. That we would
9 all struggle together now and quickly and not wait till
10 the year 2030, because perhaps by the year 2030 most of
11 the current ag workers would be retired.

12 Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

13 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

14 FACILITATOR PENNY: There's a clarifying
15 question.

16 BOARD MEMBER DEARDORFF: Yeah. I just had a
17 question. You mentioned the word "permit"; he said it
18 would be beneficial for all the ag workers to have a
19 permit. I'm curious what he meant by that term.

20 MR. PRADO: (Responded in Spanish.)

21 BOARD MEMBER DEARDORFF: (Replied in Spanish.)

22 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next speaker, Francis Macias.
23 After that, it will be John Miller.

24 MS. MACIAS: Good afternoon, everyone. My name
25 is Francis Macias, and I come from Lamont, and I am here

1 representing the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

2 It is very important that whenever there is going
3 to be a change in agriculture that you take the farm
4 worker voice into consideration because they are also
5 impacted or affected. We are willing to work with you to
6 make changes in agriculture in a positive way.

7 That is all. Thank you.

8 PRESIDENT MONTANA: Thank you.

9 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

10 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up, John Miller. And
11 after that, we will go to Glen Anderson.

12 MR. MILLER: Good afternoon. My name is John
13 Miller, and I'm actually representing myself, although I'm
14 an elementary teacher in Porterville, and I teach
15 geography for Bakersfield College and I live outside Ducor
16 on a couple of acres out there.

17 I'm actually here today because I'm a citizen of
18 California, and agriculture is -- the word is in our
19 culture, and everybody should be concerned with this.
20 I've heard from the farm workers, I've heard from the
21 farmers, I've heard from a lot of other groups; and in
22 general I'm in agreeance with almost everybody, few
23 exceptions, of what I've heard today.

24 This is kind of going to be all over the place.
25 Yesterday when I heard about this, I wrote down six pages

1 of quick bullet notes to say whatever; but I'm not going
2 to get to all six pages, so I'll try and go ahead in a
3 couple of different things that are around here.

4 Heard quite a bit about education. I've been
5 involved in education for over 20 odd years at all
6 different levels. I taught kindergarten, and that too is
7 in its name, garden. We should be having gardens in every
8 school. I know we tried that a few years ago; we've
9 gotten away from it. I'd like to see this not just at
10 high school level, college level, but all K-12.

11 But something that needs to be said is we must do
12 something about the No Child Left Behind Act, because that
13 act is driving science education away, history education,
14 agriculture education away, technical education with its
15 emphasis specifically on mathematics and language art
16 scores, all the other educations are being thrown out the
17 door. So in the education system we must do something to
18 change No Child Left Behind, because we're not having the
19 opportunity to teach all these other subjects. Students
20 are being driven out of vocational ed.

21 Speaking of different types of agriculture,
22 skipping from education, I would like people to remember
23 the parts I disagreed with was the ones who kept saying we
24 need more and more chemicals. The petrochemical industry
25 did not exist 120 years ago. I believe that we could be

1 going toward plant-based substances.

2 My vision for agriculture is to be seeing a much
3 healthier agriculture where everybody's involved, because
4 it does affect everyone. Over 90 percent of all the kids
5 in this valley have lung problems. I myself, everybody
6 here is affected.

7 You've heard about the water. We need to be
8 cleaning this up. And part of the problem though is that
9 our farmers are not competing on a level playing field. I
10 know we have lots of regulations, but what needs to be
11 done is, say, hey, the crops are going to be sold in
12 California or the United States, the other countries must
13 meet our standards for environmental, for labor, for
14 health, other things. The people of this country deserve
15 healthy food and safe food. I do not know why we're
16 importing food from China, other than the lowest common
17 denominator; okay, money, but that is going to be changing
18 our transportation costs.

19 Global climate change is inevitable. It changes
20 all the time. I hear there's plans for more dams and
21 waters in the mountains. We don't know what we're going
22 to have yet.

23 One thing, it bothers me immensely, is Saudi
24 Arabia is a dairy exporting nation. They do it with our
25 money because they have no water of their own, but they

1 have desalinization plants. We're not going to solve our
2 water problem in California by pulling more water out of
3 northern California, shipping it through at extreme high
4 cost and putting more dams in the mountains. We're going
5 to have to use it wiser, but we are going to have to
6 invest in desalinization plants for the urban uses because
7 that's where a lot of this water's going. The farmers
8 have done a better job using their water, but we need to
9 look at a future plan.

10 I know the American Farmland Trust has looked at
11 this for years, talking about what's going to be in the
12 population in this valley. They're talking about dumping
13 ten million people here over the next 20 years. This
14 cannot support it. The water's poison, the earth's
15 poison.

16 We need statewide land use planning. I know
17 that's anethema to the construction industry and to other
18 people, but we need to sit back here, and all prime
19 farmlands, all Class I farmlands should be identified, and
20 we've done our best to conserve it. And it needs to be on
21 a statewide level, because this state can feed the world.
22 I know that we are feeding other places, and our own
23 people are not real healthy with this.

24 I'd like to see more small farmers involved in
25 farming. I studied agriforestry and community gardens.

1 I'd like to see community gardens through all our towns
2 and communities. I'd actually like to see the prison
3 system get involved in training some of the prisoners to
4 get back into gardening and farming. We're the largest
5 incarcerator in the world here; we need to put people's
6 minds into different areas. I'd also like to see
7 community hospitals for like the VA, rehabilitation
8 centers, preschools, old folks' homes, they know about all
9 this.

10 One of the things too I'd like to see -- real
11 quick, and I see time, there's a lot of things I'm not
12 quite getting here -- but I'd like to see the happy cows
13 commercials be true. Okay? You know, I drink a lot of
14 milk and the rest, but I really do think that our dairies
15 out here can do a lot more to be environmentally friendly.
16 I think they also are energy factories. Every dairy out
17 here could be producing methanol and they could be using
18 solar energy. We could be doing lots of stuff through
19 agriforestry, putting up windbreaks and doing smarter
20 farming practices around.

21 I know there's lots and lots of other things out
22 there, but I do want to go ahead and -- just one or two
23 other things, here, real quick, which is, I know it's not
24 the San Joaquin Valley, but a dream of mine is to see the
25 Salton Sea get cleaned up again too. And we've got to

1 consider the farming in the Imperial Valley, because
2 that's an ecological disaster zone right now.

3 And one more thing I'd like to say right now is
4 that a country that cannot feed itself is not secure
5 whatsoever and that our country was founded on agrarian
6 principles and I'd like to see us get back. And it may be
7 pie in the sky, but to tout some of the Thomas Jefferson
8 principles that said, hey, everybody should be involved in
9 farming and doing alternative crops.

10 Thank you.

11 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 40,
12 who is Glenn Anderson.

13 Let me check with Secretary Kawamura and
14 President Montna.

15 You have nine speakers left. Shall we just
16 continue?

17 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Keep going.

18 FACILITATOR PENNY: So we have speaker 40, Glenn
19 Anderson. After that speaker 41, Larry Dutto.

20 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you for this opportunity.
21 I've been listening intently for some discussion of the
22 energy crises as it appears before us. I farm organic
23 almonds up in Hilmar in Merced County, and I've been doing
24 it for, well, about 20 or so years, and have been selling
25 them under the trade name Anderson Almonds for about 18

1 years, 19 years, and it has worked out quite well for us.

2 I'm also 73 years old, going to be 74 in October,
3 and I'm kind of the last of the Andersons on our avenue in
4 Hilmar. We used to pretty much run the place, but
5 everyone else has moved away but me and my wife, and --
6 yeah, it's me and my wife, just us on that street.

7 Energy crisis, what do we do about escalating
8 petroleum and increasing global demand for petroleum when
9 in fact we've got a petroleum-based agriculture and food
10 system? I think it's the biggest challenge looming before
11 us. Alternative energies aren't coming online very fast,
12 and we continue with our gluttony and our culture. My
13 Prius was getting 48 miles to the gallon coming down here
14 with three of us inside of it driving 70. We could have
15 been picked up, that eye was shining on us a few times.

16 I think that we need to really put -- underscore
17 research and readjusting our priorities. I think on my
18 farm I can very likely do a few things differently. It
19 seems to me that there's going to be an emergence, I know
20 that there is an emergence now, and I think there's going
21 to be an expansion of that, of this dual system of
22 agriculture. Megafarms with confinement livestock, I've
23 got it all around me. I used to be a dairy farmer,
24 fortunately I'm not anymore, but I've got cows all around
25 me. And they are growing very rapidly, those enterprises

1 are growing; some are dropping. But there's a huge
2 challenge with how to do livestock properly in my
3 estimation. That whole thing is dependent on petroleum.

4 I remember when in fact all of agriculture didn't
5 have tractors in it. I'm old enough to remember when our
6 family got its first tractor.

7 So this dual system that I think will emerge will
8 be one of really based on local production, local
9 consumption. We've talked about community gardens and
10 education, revising our academic curriculum to include
11 some gardens and ag technologies. And I think that if I
12 convert three acres of my farm over to local
13 consumption -- I have built a little model around my
14 farmstead where I can pick something from a tree 12 months
15 of the year and eat right there. I think I should offer
16 that up to the community by expanding that model and just
17 say, come to my farm. I can have a U-pick here. They can
18 pay at the gate and have a little adventure farm, bring
19 their kids and bring their family, sit in the middle of it
20 and meditate and enjoy themselves. And if they want to
21 take some home, there'll be another fee. I think I could
22 put that up on the internet and probably draw some
23 visitors from who knows where. I'm going to start
24 thinking about doing that starting this fall. And perhaps
25 I could even draw some of my family back to that road if I

1 had something that was relevant to the current situation.

2 And to me, that seems to be something really
3 important, is figure out how we're going to eat better
4 locally, more wholesomely, and protect the environment
5 with a very biodiverse production system with a lot of
6 native plants and proper utilization of the water in that
7 model.

8 Thank you again. It was fun.

9 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

10 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 41,
11 Larry Dutto. After that will be speaker 42, Mark Hess.

12 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Larry, before you start,
13 I'll just make a quick comment on the community gardens
14 and the school garden.

15 When we started and came into this
16 administration, a lot of us felt that that was a very
17 important thing that can be done. In the previous arm of
18 education that had school gardens, a garden in every
19 school, even though nutrition was not necessarily a large
20 part of that, it was more of the ag literacy side of it,
21 and combined with ag literacy plus the nutrition, obesity,
22 the whole dynamic there, it's been quite a focus for us.
23 We've gone -- I think we have 9,000 schools in the state
24 when we started four and a half years ago; 3,000 of them
25 had a garden believe it or not. Today it's over 5,000 and

1 growing. And our goal is to have a garden in every
2 school.

3 So, Mr. Miller, I wanted to -- is that John
4 Miller over there? I just wanted to tell you the garden
5 component as a tool, as a resource, as something that can
6 help, whether it's in a school or in a community, I'm a
7 firm believer in that, and I see great value in it.

8 Thanks.

9 MR. DUTTO: My name is Larry Dutto. I'm the Dean
10 of Agriculture and Career Technical Education at the
11 College of the Sequoias just up the road here, and I want
12 to thank the panel for their patience today. I'll learn
13 to get here earlier next time.

14 First of all, I'd like to have you all realize if
15 you've not visited this area before, you're in the center
16 of agriculture. You've got the World Expo right here,
17 across the street the ag commissioner's office, and UC
18 extension next to that. Ag tech, which does all the
19 energy kinds of things for agriculture. A mile south is
20 the UC veterinarian teaching medical center. And in 2012
21 about a mile across the field here will be the new College
22 of the Sequoias agriculture campus. We've been farming
23 that with students for the last five years and we feel
24 that these young people in the blue jackets here are what
25 the vision of agriculture will be in 2030. It's going to

1 take their ideas to solve all the issues that you've heard
2 here today, and they're very important.

3 I gave you a brochure about AB1480. There are a
4 lot of huge issues here that you face today. I'm going to
5 give you one simple quick solution. Call Jose Millan at
6 the California Community College Chancellor's office and
7 take some of those dollars that Governor Schwarzenegger,
8 the 58 million he's given to community colleges for
9 workforce development, and put agriculture as one of those
10 top priorities, because right now agriculture is not even
11 on the radar screen in terms of all the good things that
12 the CTE dollars are doing. I happen to know that because
13 we've got -- received several grants here at COS. We've
14 got alternate energy programs, we have career pathway
15 programs, we have garden projects teaming with Tulare
16 County Farm Bureau. And so when we look at all those
17 opportunities in agriculture, the key is going to be on
18 that foundation of education.

19 So those curriculum standards, criteria for
20 community colleges, all it will take is the Board to
21 contact the chancellor's office and say, hey, you need to
22 put agriculture on the radar screen and you need to
23 appropriate some of those dollars to agriculture education
24 at the community college level.

25 We are the most flexible portion and the work

1 horse of workforce training in California. Last summer we
2 did a farm worker ESL program, we've done nutrition
3 programs, we've done parenting programs, and so we are
4 training two million people in California for those jobs
5 out there in agriculture and other industries.

6 And so I want to thank you all for being here
7 today. That's all the time I'm going to take. But I
8 think it's important that we give community college
9 agriculture programs the emphasis and the tools for them
10 to provide that training for these young people, whether
11 they're going to a community college, to the University of
12 California, to the California State University system, but
13 education is going to be the key.

14 Thank you.

15 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Larry, before you sit down,
16 just a quick clarification and also a quick request.

17 Secretary Bradshaw, our Labor Secretary, as well
18 as Secretary Chrisman, we've been working very closely
19 together. We recognize that the community college system
20 has a wonderful role to play, and one of the things that
21 Secretary Bradshaw has said forever is that -- and they
22 did quite a bit of good work in this, is that agriculture
23 needs to be a career of first choice, not a career of last
24 choice. And in doing that, they really do. And we're all
25 very excited about how that can take place; that if you

1 enter agriculture, whether it's a farm worker or anywhere
2 along the ag food chain, that there's a welcoming hand
3 that helps you up as far as you can go with your
4 abilities, with your desire and ambition within this
5 enormous ag chain of employment, which is really one-tenth
6 of the employment in the state.

7 And so if you have a chance to put together some
8 of those thoughts that you just presented --

9 MR. DUTTO: Yes.

10 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: -- in a more formalized way
11 and certainly submit them along with any other friends
12 from your arena, we'd love to see that. And that's the
13 kind of thing that gives us a chance to build upon where
14 we're headed here into 2030. So I'd certainly appreciate
15 that.

16 MR. DUTTO: I'll be glad to do that and I will
17 submit it.

18 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

19 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up speaker 42, Mark
20 Hess. And after that will be speaker 43, Edie Jessup.

21 MR. HESS: Good afternoon. My name is Mark Hess.
22 I come to you as another educator who's interested in
23 agriculture. My career in agriculture began in the 1970s
24 in Fullerton, California, in Orange County. I was an FFA
25 member there. I got to serve with several of the Dooleys

1 with the state, the state FFA organization over the years,
2 and Cal Dooley is one of our own politicians here in the
3 southern California area, and he has since retired from
4 that area. But he and I were on the State Executive
5 Committee together back in 1973, 1974.

6 As I'd like to speak to you today, a lot of folks
7 have alluded to or very well covered, these young ladies
8 to my left have very eloquently covered the FFA area, and
9 it's of vital importance that we still educate people in
10 agriculture in the State of California.

11 In our own community in Porterville, California,
12 we have seen a great decrease in the amount of resources
13 devoted to agriculture education. There has even been
14 talk in recent years of losing our agriculture education
15 facilities. In addition to that, the lack of support from
16 the general education area, and I know you folks are not
17 directly endorsing that and you're not really an education
18 board, but it is very, very important.

19 All of the young people that we can draw to
20 agriculture as part of our culture, it is as important as
21 music, it is as important as art. We have wonderful new
22 schools that they call charter schools where boys and
23 girls are able to take electives where they can emphasize
24 their interest in other areas of human culture, art,
25 economics, science, and yet we very, very few times offer

1 agriculture as one of those alternatives as a first choice
2 for a career.

3 I don't want to reiterate or repeat the other
4 things that Mr. Mendes has said or these young ladies,
5 they very adequately covered the topic, but I think it's
6 of absolute vital importance that we draw young people
7 back into this industry and make them realize the
8 importance and the pride that they can instill in other
9 people in their community by becoming involved in with the
10 production of food and to really bring forth the vitality
11 that California has to offer and the things that we can
12 grow for folks here and other places.

13 Thank you so much for giving me that opportunity,
14 and I appreciate your time.

15 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

16 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you. Do you know
17 Jim Bailey?

18 MR. HESS: I do.

19 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Just saw him a couple days
20 ago.

21 MR. HESS: Sunny Hills FFA. His girls were not
22 allowed in FFA, they went to my high school, they were in
23 in 4H. That was when -- he was the last chapter in
24 California that allowed girls into FFA, they didn't do it
25 until Mr. Bailey left, and his girls never got to be in

1 FFA because he said there are no girls in FFA. If I'm not
2 mistaken in my section, that was the last chapter, the
3 last chapter in the Orange section, the last chapter that
4 allowed girls in FFA in the State of California was Sunny
5 Hills, not Fullerton, but Sunny Hills.

6 BOARD MEMBER DOOLEY: I said this yesterday and
7 I've got to say it today. I'm the guy in 1969 who offered
8 the charter amendment at the national convention to allow
9 women to be members of FFA.

10 MR. HESS: And I don't know if you recall, sir,
11 but you also spoke at my chapter FFA meeting one year as a
12 state officer and encouraged me to become a regional
13 president in the southwestern region, and that's how I
14 continued my career in ag.

15 BOARD MEMBER DOOLEY: Well, I'm sorry, I don't
16 remember that; it was a year or two ago.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If he were still an
18 attorney, he'd send you a bill.

19 BOARD MEMBER MEYERS: I have a question. Do you
20 receive any support financially and otherwise from private
21 enterprise?

22 MR. DUTTO: Say again, sir.

23 BOARD MEMBER MEYERS: Do you receive any support
24 either financially or otherwise from private enterprise
25 for your educational processes, whether it be FFA or in

1 your student teachings?

2 MR. DUTTO: There is a partnership in many
3 schools, in many FFA chapters throughout the state
4 including here in Tulare County. I reside in Tulare
5 County. We're also small livestock producers in addition
6 to being educators. Unfortunately, with the NCLB program,
7 No Child Left Behind Program, I'm afraid there's also been
8 no room for culture program.

9 In the low-performing schools that we have in our
10 area in Tulare County, especially on that end of the
11 county where we come from, many of these school garden and
12 other programs that would be supported by private
13 enterprise have been suspended because of the classroom
14 time that would be required away from that standards-based
15 education. And we have seen many of our supplementary
16 programs dissolve because they do not -- they do not
17 forward a standard within the framework of the State of
18 California to go toward the scores on the state test. And
19 so we're losing that support.

20 MR. MILLER: I have to comment. I know the Ag in
21 the Classroom has put a lot of standards for that in the
22 farm bureau, except that the regular education community
23 is still unaware of that, and it's time consuming they
24 say, you will do this, this, and this, and so many of the
25 programs are set programs, this is your time, this is what

1 you teach, and any others get pushed out of the way. But
2 I do know that the Ag in the Classroom program farm bureau
3 put a lot of standards out there, but it's just very hard
4 to get the regular education community to look at this and
5 say, okay, how do we integrate this, so it gets pushed out
6 the door.

7 FACILITATOR PENNY: Please recognize we've got
8 speakers that have been hanging around a long time and
9 might want to talk about some additional things. Let me
10 suggest we go ahead through the list and then check in.

11 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: That's right.

12 PRESIDENT MONTNA: If we have any further
13 comment, we'll take it at the end.

14 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

15 MS. JESSUP: Thank you. My name is Edie Jessup,
16 and I work with Fresno Metro Ministry, and we are a social
17 justice organization. I primarily work on a hunger and
18 nutrition program and work on obesity prevention work here
19 in the valley.

20 I want to say that I endorse the 36 goals of
21 sustainability presented by the Roots of Change
22 organization, and I have had discussion with the Secretary
23 around that. And I believe that those areas of health,
24 adaptability, research, education, and equity are
25 primarily the areas of vision that need to be addressed in

1 your plan.

2 I have a couple of other things though that I
3 want to say to you. Equity is really the part of it that
4 catches me. And it is very concerning to me that you all
5 do not look like California and the California farmers
6 that I know in Fresno. We farm in over a hundred
7 languages, and the vitality of agriculture, I believe is
8 coming from refugee and immigrant farmers. And the kinds
9 of new crops that we are developing and doing here in the
10 valley are not represented here today. And it's very
11 concerning to me, and I hope that there will be another
12 opportunity to have that discussion with really good
13 headset equipment and the ability to hear from those
14 people who are farming small farming and local farming.

15 I also want to say that the central valley
16 produces cheap food for this nation, and that support does
17 not return back here to the valley. I would very much
18 like to look at the continuum of that and have our state
19 also advocate for federal response to that.

20 I would like to see the Agriculture Department
21 work with Department of Human Services and make sure that
22 everyone who is eligible for food stamps in this state is
23 enrolled in that program, because that is one way to
24 balance the cheap food that we're providing for the nation
25 where we are in a situation and almost a disaster

1 situation here in terms of people being able to eat. And
2 so that is a really critical thing to me.

3 I don't know when we changed from agriculture to
4 agribusiness. It is really upsetting to me that we are
5 not talking about agriculture as culture, and we all need
6 to eat, and unfortunately here in the valley, we have too
7 many people who cannot eat. Our food banks are empty, and
8 we're facing a disaster like a freeze with the drought
9 this summer, and the programs that are supposed to help
10 with that are not going to get here in time. And I am
11 very concerned about what is happening here in the valley
12 because of that. So food stamps and enrollment by
13 everyone that is eligible for that program.

14 I think that looking at the health benefits, our
15 specialty crops need to be our priority in any vision for
16 the future because that is going to be the solution to the
17 chronic disease crisis that we are also facing at this
18 time. Our kids are growing up unhealthy. They're going
19 to die before we do because of the chronic disease they
20 are developing. And this is business, again, for our
21 agriculture community, seeing that our schools are getting
22 the best and most local produce for our kids to eat,
23 seeing that all kids eat breakfast and lunch at school.
24 If they don't have those opportunities and they aren't
25 getting good food, local food, we are going to be in real

1 trouble I'm afraid.

2 I think that any vision for California's
3 agriculture needs to create a standard that looks at what
4 the results of our agriculture are. And so as we're
5 looking about the degradation of our air and our water and
6 our land, we need to look at those as being the results of
7 our agriculture and we need to really turn that around.

8 We human beings started living in cities on this
9 earth 6,000 years ago, and we did it because our farming
10 got so good that not everybody had to spend all their time
11 growing food. Farmers could raise enough food to feed
12 themselves and lots of other people too. So some people
13 began to specialize in making cloth and others in making
14 pottery and building buildings. We created cities as a
15 result of good farming.

16 Some of the oldest cities in the world were in
17 Egypt, and from the Egyptian Book of the Dead, here is a
18 partial list of things a citizen was not supposed to do:
19 One is not to cheat poor people. One is not to take land
20 from a neighbor. One is not to take milk away from
21 children. One is not to waste water. From 6,000 years
22 ago, some pretty good recommendations about farming and
23 about what we need to do to live well in our cities.

24 And we have created a perfect storm here in the
25 valley, lack of food, lack of housing, lack of health

1 care, lack of clean air to breathe and lack of clean water
2 to drink. Right here in Fresno in the central valley your
3 vision of ag needs to be a repair of our food system.

4 Thank you.

5 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up speaker 44, Silas
6 Shower. After that will be speaker 45, Lupe Martinez.

7 MR. SHAWER: Hello, good afternoon. My name is
8 Silas Shower. I work with the California Rural Legal
9 Assistance in Fresno and I do a lot of work throughout the
10 central valley. And my work particularly is focusing on
11 health and safety issues for farm workers and in farm
12 worker communities. And I want to talk a little bit about
13 some of the enforcement issues and health and safety
14 regulations.

15 And one thing, thinking about 2030, one of the
16 speakers before, Timoteo, mentioned the fact that a lot of
17 farm workers will be retiring and thinking about
18 retirement by 2030. And I'm wondering what these people
19 are going to be retiring with. We know that farm workers
20 are making minimum wage, there are practically no farm
21 workers who receive any health care benefits, I've never
22 heard of a farm worker with a retirement plan. And so
23 what are these -- what does this retirement look for?

24 We're also looking at an industry that is one of
25 the most dangerous in the country, that has some of the

1 highest rates of injury. And so clearly the health issues
2 for farm workers, people are going to be retiring
3 unhealthy, people are going to be retiring with no
4 financial support. And, hopefully, maybe they have some
5 family members who have been able to get out of the
6 industry and get into something else, or perhaps move up,
7 which is very rare for many farm workers.

8 And I think there are a whole list of factors
9 that contribute to this, but one that I think of that
10 hasn't been talked about a lot is -- we've talked about
11 the disconnect between the public and their food source
12 and agriculture, but we've seen over quite a bit of time a
13 disconnect between the growers and the farm workers
14 because we have a huge farm labor contractor system.

15 Somebody mentioned earlier that a lot of times
16 farm workers do not even know who they're working for,
17 which could mean that a grower is hiring a contractor who
18 could be hiring some foreperson who's calling somebody
19 else to, you know, bring a group of people over to work.
20 And so workers don't get paid, workers don't have
21 bathrooms, workers don't have water, workers do not have
22 shade, workers do not have the proper tools, workers do
23 not have the proper training; and yet they don't even know
24 who to go to get those things fixed.

25 And the way the contractor system works, the

1 grower is not responsible for that, it's whoever the
2 employer tends to be is responsible for meeting these
3 regulations. And an issue that we see all the time, which
4 I think is -- which is very frustrating to me is that
5 there is a very high level of retaliation. I mean, as you
6 all know, it's at-will employment, you know, you fire
7 someone whenever you want. And so workers are extremely
8 afraid to make a complaint because the norm is,
9 unfortunately, as much as I try to tell people it's
10 illegal to retaliate against you for complaining about
11 health and safety issue, if you complain you're going to
12 get fired.

13 And workers have, you know, very little recourse.
14 You can do a complaint with the state. It takes about two
15 years for them to do an investigation. And the burden is
16 really on the employee to prove an unlawful motive by the
17 employer, not a very easy thing to do.

18 And, you know, people say we need more
19 enforcement from Cal OSHA. Clearly, that's true. All you
20 need to do is drive around in the fields, and if you start
21 counting workers and seeing looking for bathrooms or
22 checking water, seeing if there's shade available, it's
23 just not there, because I think the growers who have more
24 resources to provide the infrastructure and shade and make
25 sure -- and provide the training and make sure the

1 workplace is safe, they're not the employer anymore, so
2 it's not their responsibility. They're moving down to
3 contractors and going to smaller businesses that are
4 having to bear the costs, and a lot of times they won't
5 do -- they're just not going to do it because it's cheaper
6 for them to take their chances at getting caught. And if
7 they get caught, a lot of times they disappear, lose their
8 license, and have a family member get their license and
9 keep working. And so it's really a system that's flawed.
10 And farm workers do not have -- many times do not have the
11 power to address it.

12 So I think looking at a vision, what I would like
13 to see is an industry where farm workers know who they're
14 working for, where they have a relationship with their
15 employers, where they have health benefits, where they can
16 work with their employer in addressing health issues and
17 making sure the work environment is a safer place. And
18 unfortunately, for many reasons that is the reality for
19 very, very few farm workers.

20 Thank you.

21 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thanks for your help today,
22 Silas, also. Thanks a lot.

23 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up speaker number 45,
24 Lupe Martinez. After that will be speaker 46, Andrew
25 Posado.

1 MR. MARTINEZ: My name is Lupe Martinez. I work
2 for Censure on Race Poverty and the Environment. I've
3 been a farm worker most of my life. And so I thank you
4 for giving us the opportunity to speak to you. And I know
5 it's getting really late and we're the last ones here, so
6 I'm going to try and sum up since a lot of it has already
7 been said, what I wanted to talk about, so I'll try to do
8 a summary of what I had because I had quite a bit to talk
9 about.

10 But one of the visions that I would love to see
11 is, of course, universal health care for the farm workers,
12 of course. And we should try to see if there's a way that
13 we can look at different strategies, including perhaps tax
14 credits for growers offering them health insurance to the
15 farm workers, promoting perhaps increase by national
16 U.S.-Mexico coverage and expanding the pool of culturally
17 competent health care providers serving the farm workers
18 in the U.S. In the long term, of course, universal health
19 care should be adopted and be available to all the
20 residents regardless of whether they're documented or
21 undocumented, whomever it is, but is in need of medical
22 care.

23 Towards the other vision is that we have worker
24 health and safety conditions and safe working conditions
25 for the farm workers, and to have a more sustainable food

1 system. Certainly would love to see the different
2 agencies such as OSHA and, you know, enforcing the laws.
3 Also what I'd love to see at some point is the reduction
4 of the use of pesticides, which has been a culprit in so
5 many things in my lifetime.

6 I was responsible in exposing the situation of
7 the cancer cluster in McFarland. Then we realized there
8 was another issue, and that happened in Rosemont. And
9 then we have another one, and that was in Fowler. And
10 then the next one was in Earlimart. And I can continue on
11 and on and just seeing those things.

12 And it's been very difficult as a farm worker and
13 then being able to educate somewhat, not a formal
14 education, but educate myself through life and the
15 experiences and seeing that we have some real difficulties
16 here with chemicals.

17 We need to make sure that somewhere along the
18 line, I'd like to see that perhaps by 2030, and I'm not
19 going to be around, but hopefully these young women will
20 be the ones who will not have to endure any of these
21 things that I just mentioned that happened in McFarland
22 and all these other communities, and that we'll eliminate
23 Class I and Class II pesticides, period.

24 Now, the other thing is healthy agriculture
25 communities. Given that there's so many farm workers that

1 are now long-term permanent residents of California, and
2 there has been a big change from the time of my parents,
3 myself as a young worker migrating back into the famous
4 state of Texas, because when you ask anybody in
5 agriculture where we're from, they were either from Texas
6 or they were from (unintelligible).

7 And so seeing that we have those increases of
8 farm workers who are not migrating as heavily as it used
9 to be, that certainly my vision would be that we have farm
10 worker housing, safe and affordable transportation, that
11 we don't have incidents as we've had in the past where
12 vans full of farm workers die as a result because we don't
13 have that safe transportation, and, of course, that we
14 establish community centers providing social services and
15 recreational activities and promoting increased civic
16 engagements in communities organizing activities among the
17 farm workers.

18 However, understanding, and as I mentioned being
19 a farm worker, I've also seen some other things that
20 plague the industry. And perhaps I have more questions
21 than suggestions or recommendations.

22 Certainly few of the things that have created a
23 phenomena over the years, and I don't know whether it is
24 reversible or not, and has been the fact that big
25 conglomerates, corporations, oil companies -- I used to

1 work for an oil company who was in the industry, in the ag
2 industry, and saw that they started to choose to go
3 abroad, go to other countries for cheap labor, for the
4 resources and to exploit those resources.

5 So we have a phenomena that has taken place at
6 this point as a creation of what has transpired because of
7 the same industry who has done this, and so now we have
8 global competition; and we're asking ourselves, why are we
9 allowing food to come from somewhere else. And the fact
10 that California where at one time used to, not only the
11 state, but fed the nation and other countries, we're lucky
12 that we're feeding ourselves in the state in reality when
13 we really look at it. So knowing that that has been a
14 real problem, we need to start looking at the NAFTA, the
15 imports, the exports, and we need to start really looking
16 at protection of what we have here. The small farmers who
17 cannot go abroad, the family farms, which that is probably
18 not even a word anymore, which is out of our context here.

19 In conclusion then, I think what we need to do is
20 to partner up, we need to have farm workers at the table,
21 not serving the table, but being at the table, at the
22 table, we need to make sure that growers are also willing
23 to reverse that phenomena that I'm talking about, and also
24 that CDFA take a different role of looking at the national
25 policies that have impacted California and itself.

1 And so I thank you for allowing me to give you my
2 comments and I appreciate it.

3 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

4 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

5 FACILITATOR PENNY: Next up we have speaker 46,
6 Andrew Cosado. Then we have speaker 47 -- sorry, speaker
7 48, Harry Peck. And speaker 49, Mark Dias.

8 Andrew Cosado? Going, going, gone. Andrew
9 Cosado?

10 Harry Peck?

11 I think we have our clean-up batter, Martin Dias.

12 MR. PECK: Thank you for your time and
13 opportunity to talk to somebody else rather than preaching
14 to the choir. Mr. Dooley, we go way back. My name is
15 Harry Peck. I've lived in this community for 35 years in
16 the industry I've been involved, and, yes, I work for one
17 of the big chemical companies. All the issues that were
18 addressed today are accurate and key.

19 One thing before I forget, Mr. Meyers, to address
20 your question about the environment or the enterprise
21 projects, my company supplied Cochran High School and COS
22 with cotton seed last year in encouraging those projects.

23 That said, we do have an issue with water,
24 regulations, that are coming down from the farm workers.
25 Some of the things that I've heard here today are

1 bothersome from the standpoint of regulation of illegal
2 pesticides being used. We are so tightly regulated in
3 this state than anywhere else in the world. That allows
4 us to have the safest food and the cheapest food of any
5 place in the world.

6 More recently, the last couple months, I've heard
7 more discussion about the cost of food going up. Part of
8 it is an impact of production here, the prices going up to
9 be exported to other countries where their diets are
10 changing, more to meat, chicken, to feed the chickens so
11 they can increase or develop their menu and what is going
12 on.

13 One of the things, being a chemical manufacturer,
14 we don't get credit for the materials that are organic.
15 Everything that we sell is a pesticide from the standpoint
16 of the public and the lack of understanding. Some people
17 in Sacramento have a clue, a lot of them don't.
18 Discussions that I've had with some of the legislators in
19 Sacramento, scary. I talked to one person that is
20 employed in the Capitol, got into a discussion about where
21 he lived. And he lived on a lake north of Sacramento.
22 There are no lakes north of Sacramento, it's rice fields.
23 Well, this is a manmade lake. I thought, that's fine.

24 I said, what are you going to do when that lake
25 goes dry? He said, that won't happen. The developer cut

1 a deal with the water district to allow that lake to be
2 maintained if all the homeowners paid a dollar a year.

3 The issues of John, the west side farmer, the
4 Endangered Species Act, that is a little out of whack. At
5 what point in time does the California farmer go on the
6 Endangered Species Act list? Because what's happening is
7 they're being forced out of business. Who creates the job
8 for the farm workers? The revenues that are developed,
9 the research that goes into -- the students coming out of
10 school to work for a chemical company. We're not able to
11 produce the food in the abundance that we are without the
12 programs we're using. Yes, we'd like to see everything
13 organic, but it can't be done. There are niche markets
14 for those areas. Conventional has to go into play on a
15 consistent basis.

16 And unless we all get it together, the vision
17 that I have for agriculture in the State of California in
18 2030, not going to be here. There will be no need for
19 farm workers. We won't have an air pollution problem
20 because there will be no trucks because they're getting
21 regulated out.

22 One of the things that came to mind on the Air
23 Resources Board, that we have to reduce VOCs, carbon
24 emissions, all these sorts of things because they're
25 polluted, or created right here. In recent weeks this

1 valley has been full of smoke from a fire. Where was the
2 fire in the valley? Wasn't here, but we're getting
3 credit, we the valley are getting credit for these issues
4 that are happening in the valley. We can't do anything
5 about it other than make farmers buy new trucks, retrofit
6 engines to reduce pollutions that basically are not
7 happening here with the California farmer, but he's
8 getting brought into this whole mix because he has an
9 industry that's high profile.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 FACILITATOR PENNY: Let me ask, is Martin Dias
12 here? Martin Dias was last on the speaker list.

13 So as I turn now the microphone and the meeting
14 back over to the Secretary and the President, I want to
15 thank all of you for your comments and for hanging in
16 there. The people who are now in the room have hung in
17 there for a long time to hear a wide array of comments.
18 So as facilitator, I thank you very much, and I turn it
19 back over to the Secretary and the President.

20 PRESIDENT MONTNA: First, any comments from the
21 Board Members? Questions?

22 Mr. Secretary, any comments?

23 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I'm speechless.

24 PRESIDENT MONTNA: We have heard 90 speakers in
25 the last two days, and there are many common threads

1 running through all of this testimony; the regulatory
2 climate, farm worker issues, the education issue, equity,
3 other environmental issues. This is going to be very
4 interesting when we put all of this together. But we
5 cannot express our thanks enough for all of you attending.

6 The road show continues the 7th in Oxnard, the
7 evening of the 7th especially for our farm worker
8 communities. So please tell your friends and neighbors
9 that that's happening. 8th in Escondido. August 28th --

10 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Still working on that.

11 PRESIDENT MONTNA: Well, we're working on where
12 the Board meeting is going to be. We had some conflicts.
13 And the Board, again, spends a large part of their time to
14 get this completed at the Secretary's request. So again,
15 website is --

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDDY: Thank you, Al. Again,
17 all written, all comments can be submitted online to
18 CDFA's website which is cdfa.ca.gov/agvision. And online
19 as well you'll find transcripts from our previous
20 meetings. There is probably about a two-week delay until
21 we actually get the transcript, but once we do receive it,
22 those are posted online for review. And both Sacramento
23 and the Redding sessions are online currently.

24 SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I've got one more thing to
25 do.

1 Although I don't think those individuals are
2 still in the room, Patricia Stever from the County Farm
3 Bureau that helped put this together as well as Gary
4 Kunkel, who really helped a lot, he's the ag commissioner
5 from Tulare County. Also, Dave Robinson was here, and I
6 failed to mention him for the record. And he's ag
7 commissioner as well from Merced. All these ag
8 commissioners work very closely with our Department. And
9 Kern County. Ruben, I'm sorry. Also, thank you for being
10 here. My apologies on that. I was kind of rambling on
11 here.

12 The partnership that we have with the ag
13 commissioners with every county with our Department is
14 critical to the future of ag in this state; so many thanks
15 to the counties that support these ag commissioners,
16 because they are employees of the counties, appointed by
17 the counties, and they're as big a part of the resource
18 base of what agriculture has to be as anything that goes
19 on. And we're very unique in the country because we're
20 the only state in the country that has this kind of
21 system. And it doesn't get mentioned enough to you and
22 the rest of the gang, Ruben, but thanks so much for all
23 you do.

24 PRESIDENT MONTNA: And we can't do without them.
25 So thank you.

1 Again, thank you very much.

2 This is still a Board Meeting. So I would --

3 BOARD MEMBER ROSS: Motion to adjourn.

4 PRESIDENT MONTNA: You've all had parliamentary
5 procedure. Was that an order there? And a second from
6 Tom. Any objection to adjournment? We stand adjourned.
7 Thank you very much.

8 (Thereupon, the July 2, 2008,

9 California Department of

10 Food and Agriculture

11 Vision Listening Session

12 was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, RICHARD FRIANT, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I recorded the foregoing California Department of Food and Agriculture California Farm Bill Listening Session; that thereafter the recording was transcribed.

I further certify that I am not counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said Listening Session, or in any way interested in the outcome of said Listening Session.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of July, 2008.

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