



1315 K STREET
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354-0917
TELEPHONE (209) 527-6453
FAX (209) 527-0630

September 21, 2006

Mr. Jim Rains
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room A-316
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for CDFA negative declaration on CEQA

Dear Mr. Rains:

Western United Dairy Farmers would like to express support for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) adoption of a negative declaration for proposed amendments to the CDFA Milk Stabilization Plan compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA guidelines. As determined by CDFA, there is no evidence that the proposed changes to the pricing formulas will have a significant effect on the environment.

As noted by CDFA, "The economic signals which the proposal will send to the market are mixed, and producers and processors individually or as a whole might increase or decrease their operations as a result of these signals. The subsequent analysis shows that any possible linkages between this decision and adverse environmental impacts due to enhancements in production are indirect, tenuous and speculative."

We applaud CDFA's action on this erroneous CEQA claim as any other action would have set a dangerous precedent with regard to changes in California's pricing and pooling program.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Michael L. H. Marsh, CPA
Chief Executive Officer

cc: John Dyer, Chief Counsel
Kelly Krug, Director, Marketing Services
David Ikari, Chief, Dairy Marketing Branch
Case Van Steyn, Western United Dairy Farmers