



1315 K STREET
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354-0917
TELEPHONE (209) 527-8453
FAX (209) 527-0630

March 23, 2005

The Honorable A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Emergency Request for the May 3, 2005 Class 1 Hearing to be Unconsolidated

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We respectfully appeal to the Department to consider opening up the May 3, 2005 Consolidated Class 1 hearing to separate hearings for Northern and Southern California. Unfortunately, it was just today brought to our attention that the basis for the call of the hearing was only uniform changes to the Northern and Southern California Class 1 prices.

The Board of Directors of Western United Dairymen approved the filing of an alternative proposal at its March 18, 2005 meeting that would change only the Northern California Class 1 price. Our proposal would make adjustments to the fluid carrier subtraction (-\$0.0031) in the Northern California Class 1 pricing formula and essentially lower the \$0.27 per hundredweight differential between the Northern and Southern California marketing areas. Rather than call an additional unconsolidated Class 1 hearing at a later date, we would like the opportunity to submit our proposal for consideration in the upcoming Class 1 hearing. An additional hearing would only create much unneeded workload for Department staff and industry representatives.

If the Department decides to separate the hearing, perhaps the deadline for alternative proposals could be extended one week in order to give interested parties adequate time to respond.

We feel there is adequate justification for inclusion of our alternative proposal and thank you for your careful consideration of this important request.

Very truly yours,

Michael L. H. Marsh, CPA
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Kelly Krug, Director, Marketing Services
David Ikari, Chief, Dairy Marketing Branch
Board of Directors, Western United Dairymen