



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

Joshua Eddy
Executive Director

Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi
Government Industry
Advisor, Avenu Insights &
Analytics

Jenet DeCosta,
Chief of Staff, Driscoll's

Michael Gallo, Co-owner
Joseph Gallo Farms

Eric Holst, Senior Director,
Environmental Defense
Fund

Glenda Humiston, Vice
President for Agriculture
and Natural Resources,
University of California

Julia Jackson, Founder,
Grouded

Bryce Lundberg,
Vice President,
Lundberg Family Farms

David Mancera, Director
of Ecosystem Building,
Kitchen Table Advisors

Michelle Passero,
Director of Climate
Change Programs,
The Nature Conservancy

Doria Robinson,
Executive Director,
Urban Tilth

Frank Salazar, President,
Vencer Public Affairs and
Strategy

Joy Sterling, CEO
Iron Horse Vineyards

Patricia Stock, Dean
College of Agriculture,
California State University
Chico

Christopher Valadez,
President, Grower Shipper
Association of Central
California

October 17, 2022

Dr. Jeff Dlott, Chair
Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Dlott and EFA SAP Members:

As President of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, I respectfully request assistance from the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel (EFA SAP) in determining a definition for “regenerative agriculture” in California.

There has been a substantial increase in the prevalence and use of the term in recent years and in the last legislative session, regenerative agriculture was defined in the California Public Resources Code (PRC) by AB 209 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 251, Statutes of 2022). This definition, while limited to a climate innovation program of the California Energy Commission, does not meet a science-based criterion for the designation or recognition of the term regenerative.

In the coming months, the Board will begin a public process for defining a framework for the term “regenerative agriculture” and asks the EFA SAP to assist by conducting a review of existing definitions and literature to help determine common science-based practices resulting in performance outcomes, such as net-zero emissions, that reflect California’s climate, working lands and sustainable agricultural priorities.

This review by the EFA SAP will inform the Board’s public process and resulting framework definition approach that will be submitted to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish a definition for regenerative agriculture in the California Food and Agriculture Code (FAC). As the Board looks to a summer deadline for this overall process, I request that work of the EFA SAP be concluded and submitted to the Board by February 2023.



October 17, 2022

Page 2

By defining regenerative agriculture and its eligible practices, we are working to formalize holistic methods of farming that are designed to protect, sustain and enhance natural resources and farming communities. California's farmers and ranchers continue to be the leaders and innovators in agricultural production and this framework definition of regenerative agriculture adds to the strength of our State's diversity of agricultural production.

We look forward to the work of the EFA SAP on this project.

Sincerely,



Don Cameron

cc: Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Virginia Jameson, California Department of Food and Agriculture