



June 18, 2012

Mr. Craig McNamara
President, California State Board of Food & Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Mr. McNamara:

Thank you for your letter of June 6, 2012 regarding the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA/Authority) and its relationship with the agricultural community. I can assure you that we take this issue most seriously and are in agreement with your recommendation to work cooperatively with the agricultural sector to implement a plan that benefits all Californians.

As you noted to in your letter, the Authority can do a better job of engaging with the agricultural community to minimize impacts on this most essential sector of California's economy. We have been working hard to rectify that shortcoming and we have had a number of quite positive meetings with leaders in the agricultural sector. Nevertheless, many challenging issues still remain and we need to expand our dialogue to address them.

Your proposals to continue improving this relationship are most welcome. I would greatly appreciate the chance to meet with you and Secretary Karen Ross to discuss and implement these suggestions. I am confident that these efforts will result in a high-speed rail system that has as little direct impact on agricultural land as possible and, in fact, reduces the urban sprawl that constantly threatens our state's orchards, farms, and livestock operations.

I look forward to working closely with you, the State Board of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to achieve these mutual goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Richard".

Dan Richard
Chair, California High-Speed Rail Authority Board

JERRY BROWN
GOVERNOR



cc: Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Special Advisor, Office of Governor Edmund G.
Brown Jr.