



AFRICAN-AMERICAN FARMERS of CALIFORNIA



May 30, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Budget Conference Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Vice Chair, Budget Conference Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Request for Funding in 2019/20 Budget to Support Critical Air Quality Improvement Efforts in Disadvantaged Communities in the San Joaquin Valley and Throughout the State

Dear Chair Mitchell, Vice Chair Ting, and members of the 2019 Budget Conference Committee:

The above listed organizations are writing to request a restoration of the funding for the Agricultural Diesel Engine Replacement and Upgrades programs from the Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan. Improvement of air quality in California, and particularly the San Joaquin Valley, is an important goal for our organizations, and we are diligently working with state agencies and local air districts to tackle this issue.

The funding provided by the Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan for Agricultural Diesel Engine Replacement and Upgrades has proven to be tremendously successful. After the initial funding of Ag Diesel Replacements, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) developed the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program. CARB adopted guidelines for the FARMER Program in March 2018 and by February 2019, \$124 million, or 92 percent, of Fiscal year 2017-18 funding had been disbursed, and over 70 percent of the funding went to disadvantaged and low-income communities where air quality is an identified issue. March 2019, the FARMER Program resulted in the scrapping and replacing of 500 diesel tractors and harvesters with new Tier 4 equipment; 100 heavy duty agricultural trucks with 2010 or newer trucks; and 700 diesel and gasoline ATVs with zero emission UTVs. CARB estimates these projects funded thus far under the FARMER Program will provide a totaled a reduction of 31,000 metric tons of Green House Gases; 2,300 tons of NOx; 145.31 tons of Particulate Matter (PM); 140 tons of diesel PM; and 290 tons of Reactive Organic Gases (ROG). Currently, over \$300 million in applications have been received, illustrating the high interest in participation. Further, through the FARMER Program, these old vehicles and equipment are not just removed from use, but are completely demolished to ensure they will never be used again.

CARB recently approved a State Implementation Plan for PM 2.5 (SIP), which has a goal to reduce a total of 11 tpd of NOx emission through upgrades and replacements of agricultural equipment. To achieve this, CARB staff is proposing to provide incentives, through programs such as the FARMER Program, to replace 12,000 tier 0, tier 1 and tier 2 agricultural equipment in the San Joaquin Valley by 2024. Community organizations, farmers and local air districts are working diligently to meet this goal, however, CARB estimates a need of \$5 billion.

Unfortunately, the Governor's 2019-2020 initial budget drastically reduced funding for these programs from \$132 million to just \$25 million for Agricultural Diesel Engine Replacement and Upgrades. We appreciate the Governor's May Revision increasing this amount to \$90 million, however, it still does not reach the level needed to meet California's emission reduction goals. We respectfully request that the funding for this program **be increased to at least \$250 million**; which is consistent with the last two budgets and with what CARB has identified as a necessary resource to achieve the state's air quality targets.

Much work remains to be done to clean the air, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. We look forward to working with legislative leaders and Budget Conference Committee to restore full funding to this critical program.

Sincerely,



Will Scott, Jr., President
African American Farmers of California



Michael Boccadoro, Executive Director
Agricultural Energy Consumers Association

Elaine Trevino, President/CEO
Almond Alliance of California

Richard Matoian, Executive Director
American Pistachio Growers

Debra Murdock, Executive Director
Association of California Egg Farmers

Tricia Geringer, Vice President of Government
Affairs
Agricultural Council of California

Terry Gage, President
California Agricultural Aircraft Association

Nick Matteis, Executive Director
California Association of Wheat Growers

Jan Townsend, Manager
California Bean Shippers Association

Casey Creamer, President
California Citrus Mutual

Roger Isom, President/CEO
California Cotton Ginners and Growers
Association, Inc.

Darrin Monteiro, Director of Member and
Government Relations
California Dairies, Inc

Noelle Cremers, Director, Natural Resources
and Commodities
California Farm Bureau Federation

George Radanovich, President
California Fresh Fruit Association

Chris Zanobini, Chief Executive Officer
California Grain and Feed Association

Debra Murdock, President
California Pear Growers Association

Timothy A. Johnson, President/CEO
California Rice Commission

Donna Boggs, Associate Director
California Seed Association

Ann Quinn, Executive Vice President
California State Floral Association

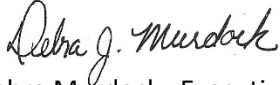
Ann Quinn, Executive Vice President
California Warehouse Association

Joani Woelfel, President & CEO
Far West Equipment Dealers Association

Manuel Cunha, Jr., President
Nisei Farmers League



Chris Zanobini, Executive Officer
Pacific Coast Renders Association



Debra Murdock, Executive Director
Pacific Eggs and Poultry Association



Tricia Stever Blattler, Executive Director
Tulare County Farm Bureau



Roger Isom, President/CEO
Western Agricultural Processors Association



Matthew Allen, Director, California
Government Affairs
Western Growers Association



Renee Pinel, President/CEO
Western Plant Health Association