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Owner, Sierra Orchards

August 25, 2016

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The Honorable Karen Ross  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Ross:

The California State Board of Food and Agriculture strongly supports the collaborative efforts of the California Department of Food of Agriculture and organic stakeholders in improving the California State Organic Program. Earlier, this year the Board heard from governmental officials (federal, state and local), organic farmers and accredited certifying agents on the potential to streamline registration and expand the opportunities for industry input, while maintaining a robust organic program within California.

We applaud the collaborative work that has been undertaken and support the underlying foundation of the State Organic Program which maintains enforcement, pesticide residue sampling, spot inspections and compliant handling for the benefit of California farmers and consumers.

California was the first state in the nation to regulate organic products more than 36 years ago. The ongoing evolution of these regulations supports California's competitiveness, innovation and diversity in organic production. Continued improvements to the program, like the collaboration between CDFA and organic stakeholders, are most welcomed.

Sincerely,

Craig McNamara  
President

