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Board President
Owner, Sierra Orchards

February 24, 2016

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Executive Director

Ashley Boren
Executive Director
Sustainable Conservation

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Associates, Inc.

Joy Sterling, CEO
Iron Horse Vineyards

The Honorable Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

With the release of the 2016-17 Governor's Budget, we applaud your continuing leadership on the global stage in combatting climate change. The proposed budget recognizes the important role that California's farmers and ranchers can have in lowering greenhouse gas emissions through climate smart agricultural practices.

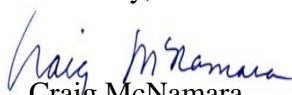
In particular, the proposed budget allocates Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds within the agricultural sector for improved irrigation technologies (\$20 million), investments in dairy digesters (\$35 million) and promoting healthy soils on agricultural lands (\$20 million). We greatly appreciate this prudent investment in California agriculture's ongoing efforts to achieve greenhouse gas reductions, increase carbon sequestration and improve water use efficiency.

One the five key targets you identified in reducing greenhouse gas emissions is the need to limit the release of short-lived climate pollutants. California's dairy sector is uniquely positioned to be a strong partner in this process. However, the highly ambitious methane reduction targets identified in the draft Short Lived Climate Pollutant Strategy will require a greater investment of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds in excess of the \$35 million identified. This additional funding for dairy digesters should not come at the expense of equally important and compelling needs of water use efficiency and healthy soils.

Aligning the efforts of the Short Lived Climate Pollutant Strategy and the agricultural allocations identified in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will result in a significant "movement of the needle" as it relates to methane reduction. Biogas from dairy digesters has the potential to provide not only renewable electricity but also low-carbon vehicle fuel and pipeline gas, which can provide significant air quality benefits in addition to greenhouse gas reductions.

We greatly appreciated the proposed funding for climate smart agricultural practices as well as opportunity for the agricultural sector to be a strong partner in addressing climate change.

Sincerely,


Craig McNamara
President



The Honorable Jerry Brown
February 24, 2016
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cc: Secretary Matt Rodriguez, California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Chair Mary Nichols, California Air Resources Board
Cabinet Secretary Keely Bosler, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Senior Advisor Cliff Rechtschaffen, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Deputy Legislative Secretary Martha Guzman-Aceves, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.