



Craig McNamara  
Board President  
Owner, Sierra Orchards

November 5, 2014

Joshua Eddy  
Executive Director

Chairman Mary Nichols  
California Air Resources Board  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ashley Boren  
Executive Director  
Sustainable Conservation

Charles Boyer, Dean  
Jordan College of  
Agricultural Sciences,  
California State  
University, Fresno

Dear Chairman Nichols:

Donald Bransford, Owner  
Bransford Farms

On behalf of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, we request that the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approve the Compliance Offset Protocol for Rice Cultivation Projects within California's Emissions Trading Program. This protocol is essential because it not only recognizes the important role that the California agricultural sector can have in offsetting greenhouse gas emissions but it can also serve as an impetus for further emission reduction practices by farmers and ranchers.

Don Cameron,  
General Manager,  
Terranova Ranch, Inc.

Nancy Casady  
General Manager  
Ocean Beach People's  
Organic Food Co-Op

The establishment of carbon markets is fundamentally important to the efforts of the State of California in mitigating climate change. Practices such as methane reduction, carbon sequestration, and nitrous oxide reduction are integral steps that agriculture can take to reduce overall state emissions. An adopted Offset Protocol for Rice Cultivation will further agricultural research, stakeholder collaboration and investment in other potential agricultural offset sectors.

Dan Dooley  
Vice President,  
University of California

Ben Drake, President  
Drake Enterprises

ARB has the opportunity through the adoption of the Compliance Offset Protocol for Rice Cultivation Projects to tap agriculture's potential to assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We are encouraged by the involvement and collaboration of many stakeholders in the development of the protocol and understand the critical need of having the appropriate science and metrics in place. We thank you for your work in helping to develop this protocol and look forward to seeing rice cultivation offsets being included within California's Emissions Trading Program.

Michael Gallo, Co-owner  
Joseph Gallo Farms

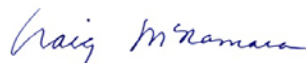
Eric Holst,  
Senior Director,  
Environmental Defense  
Fund

Bryce Lundberg,  
Vice President,  
Lundberg Family Farms

Martha Montoya,  
President,  
Los Kitos Produce

Sincerely,

Miles Reiter,  
Chairman and CEO,  
Driscoll Strawberry  
Associates, Inc.

  
Craig McNamara

Joy Sterling, CEO  
Iron Horse Vineyards

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

Rodney Taylor, Director,  
Riverside Unified School  
District

