



Don J. Cameron
Board President
General Manager,
Terranova Ranch, Inc.

March 24, 2022

Joshua Eddy
Executive Director

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

Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi
VP & Chief Operating
Officer for Pacific Asian
Consortium in
Employment

Ashley Boren
Executive Director,
Sustainable Conservation

Dear Secretary Ross:

Donald Bransford, Owner,
Bransford Farms

Our recent meeting of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture focused on issues surrounding small and medium sized farms. As policies and programs are developed to assist this underserved demographic, the Board recommends that two public bodies be established within the Department.

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

Helene Dillard, Dean
College of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences
at the University of
California, Davis

The first should represent "Small and Mid-Sized Farms and Ranches," established to advise the CDFA Secretary and the Board on issues related to agricultural marketing, production, climate, technical assistance and CDFA programs. In addition, the committee should advise on a process to establish the definition of small and mid-sized farms as well as a recommendation on the definition. The second public body should represent "Farmer and Rancher Equity," established to advise the CDFA Secretary and the Board on issues related to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as defined by the 2017 Farmer Equity Act (AB 1348). As public advisory bodies, these committees will fall under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

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

Joy Sterling, CEO
Iron Horse Vineyards

Further, the Board recommends that the majority membership of these bodies consist of farmers and ranchers for which the committees are constituted as well as representing the diversity of products and farming regions in the state. In addition, given the policy and program issues these bodies will share, it is recommended that joint meetings be held at least once per year. Members to these public bodies should be publicly recruited and appointed by the Secretary. Overall committee membership, terms and meeting frequency is at the discretion of the Department.

Andrew J. Thulin, Dean
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environmental
Sciences, California
Polytechnic State
University

Christopher Valadez,
President, Grower Shipper
Association of Central
California



March 24, 2022

Page 2

The Board greatly appreciates your leadership and engagement on small farm and farmer equity issues as well as the ongoing work of the Office of Farm Equity to support implementation of the Farmer Equity Act. CDFA's ad-hoc working groups on small farms and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)/socially disadvantaged farmers have provided a foundation to enhance policy engagement and issue prioritization within the Department and Administration. The recommended establishment of these two public bodies is an important step forward for a "California for All."

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "D" and "C".

Don Cameron