

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814



August 27, 2012

Charlie Hoppin, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Support for the Stay Request - Order No. R3-2012-0011 - Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands and Order Nos. R3-2012-0011-01, R3-2012-0011-02, and R3-2012-0011-03 Monitoring and Reporting Programs Issued by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board filed by Ocean Mist Farms and RC Farms; Grower-Shipper Association of Central California, Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, and Western Growers – SWRCB/OCC Files A-2209(c) and (d).

Dear Mr. Hoppin:

The recently adopted Conditional Agricultural Waiver by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) is focused on new agricultural requirements concerning the contamination of water resources. We believe the implementation of these requirements would, potentially, have profound economic impacts that directly affect local farmers, ranchers and consumers. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture there is a total market land value of over \$3,690,403,000. This policy will negatively affect one of the largest industries on the Central Coast.

Over the past decade, technological advancements have provided growers with tools and resources to help reduce detrimental environmental effects without regulatory intervention, ultimately making agricultural operations more sustainable.

The industry is very aware that their survival is directly dependent upon clean water sources. However, we understand that the costs of monitoring, controlling and complying with the Ag Waiver, at least in the short-term while the State Water Board

reviews this matter, far outweighs the alleged public and environmental benefits that would be obtained during this time period.

While the State Water Board conducts its review of this matter, we request that the State Water Board grant the request for stay of certain provisions that cause immediate harm to the local agricultural community.

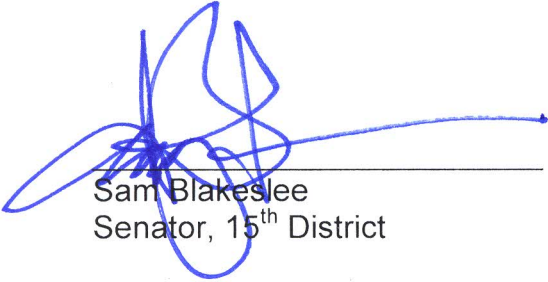
Sincerely,



Anthony Cannella
Senator, 12th District



Luis Alejo
Assemblyman, 28th District



Sam Blakeslee
Senator, 15th District



Katcho Achadjian
Assemblyman, 33rd District