



January 17, 2012

The Honorable Anthony Cannella
Chairman Senate Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol Room 3048
Sacramento, California 95814

Board Members:

Thomas J. Umberg
Chairperson

Lynn Schenk
Vice-Chairperson

Thomas Richards
Vice-Chairperson

Robert Balgenorth

Russell Burns

Jim Hartnett

Dan Richard

Michael Rossi

~~Matthew Toledo~~

Roelof van Ark
CEO

Dear Senator Canella,

Thank you for your letter dated October 12, 2011. I appreciate your comments about the importance of Agriculture in California and I share those beliefs as well. I look forward to continuing our important work with the agricultural industry throughout the state but especially in the Central Valley. I also appreciate your comments stating that the working group being chaired by Mr. John Diener "is a step in the right direction..."

The Agriculture Working Group is comprised of primarily technical experts. As we informed you in our letter dated August 1, 2011, we had approached the Ag Commissioners of Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern Counties to participate on the Ag Working Group. At the time, unfortunately, the Ag Commissioners could not confirm that they themselves would participate on the Ag panel, as they seem either to have budget or time limitations. They had however participated in nominating these technical experts to become members of the Ag Working Group.

The Working Group has been focused on issues that were discussed at the hearing you hosted in Madera earlier this year: Pollination Issues, Dairy Issues, Wind Issues, Noise Issues and Irrigation issues. This group has been charged with reviewing the potential on each of these important issues and identifying existing research and documents to assist the Authority in addressing them. The group is summarizing this information into documents, traditionally known as "white-papers" in the industry which are meant to be circulated for comment.

As the Working Group completes these white-papers on each issue, they will be submitted to the broader agriculture industry to invite comment and this will enable the further engagement you are suggesting. We will actively seek this involvement from the groups you mentioned in your letter and we appreciate your guidance. The first such paper is nearing completion.

JERRY BROWN
GOVERNOR



With this important work we can address the spirit of your letter and your concerns as well as continue to forge a working relationship with the agricultural community and its leaders. By working together we can all move California towards a future with High Speed Rail and a prosperous agriculture economy. Both are important to our future.

I would like to thank you for your support and efforts in this matter, as through them some of the County Ag Commissioners have chosen to participate personally.

Sincerely,



Roelof van Ark

cc: Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation ✓
Sen. Lowenthal: Chair, Senate Select Committee on High-Speed Rail ✓
Assemblymember Galgiani: Chair, Assembly Committee on Agriculture ✓

Mr. Thomas Umberg: Chair, California High Speed Rail Authority ✓
Mr. Dan Richard: Member, California High Speed Rail Authority ✓
Mr. Jeff Abercrombie: California High Speed Rail Authority ✓