



SAN JOAQUIN
—COUNTY—
Greatness grows here.

Board of Supervisors

Robert Rickman, *Chairman, Fifth District*
Miguel Villapudua, *Vice Chair, First District*
Paul Canepa, *Second District*
Tom Patti, *Third District*
Steven J. Ding, *Fourth District*
Rachél DeBord, *Clerk of the Board of Supervisors*

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
1020 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Y. Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Bennett
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub. No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Josh Becker
Chair, Senate Budget Sub. No. 2
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for \$160 Million for the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program

Dear Speaker Rendon, Pro Tem Atkins, Senators Skinner and Becker, and Assemblymembers Ting and Bennett:

On behalf of San Joaquin County, this letter is in support of a one-time \$160 million appropriation to support the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program.

The FARMER Program, administered by the California Air Resources Board and funded through local Air Districts, expedites the turnover of high emitting agricultural equipment, like tractors, harvesters, pumps and utility task vehicles for cleaner and zero emission equipment. This has the benefit of supporting our farmers in the movement to carbon neutrality, but more importantly providing for immediate and discernable community health and air quality improvements across the state, including the San Joaquin Valley.

Since 2017, investments in the FARMER program (complimented by matching funds) have resulted in the reduction of 185,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, 22,210 tons of harmful air pollutants, such as particulate matter and nitrous oxide. Reducing these pollutants expedites the delivery of cleaner air in the state's Central Valley where residents experience some of the highest adult and childhood asthma rates.

FARMER is one of the most cost effective and timely ways in which the state can advance our communal goals—improving air quality, lessening adverse health impacts, while advancing carbon neutrality. Realizing our vision of a more equitable and healthy future requires us to follow through with targeted and strategic investments that leave no one behind.

Unfortunately, the Governor's 2023-24 proposed budget does not include any funds for the FARMER program. Therefore, we request \$160 million in one-time support to continue this program.

We look forward to working with you all on this worthy endeavor and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Rickman, Chair
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors