March 14, 2016

Mary D. Nichols, Chair

California Air Resources Board

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Southern California Consolidation Project’s Site Location – Support for Pomona

Dear Chair Nichols:

We, the concerned agriculture students of Cal Poly Pomona, are writing to express our support for the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Southern California Consolidation Project proposed staff recommendation for the Pomona site as the location for the new CARB facility with a condition.

We acknowledge CARB to be a valuable asset to Cal Poly Pomona, the surrounding community, and Los Angeles County. As you know, we are strong advocates for our educational farm, Spadra, which is proposed to house the new CARB facility. We understand about 10 % of the farm will be allocated for this development, however, we feel as long as the rest of the farmland is left to still meet our “learn by doing” philosophy we will able to meet the needs of our students, program, and agricultural mission we are in support of this development.

We feel this is a huge opportunity for the College of Agriculture to collaborate and partner with CARB to conduct cutting edge research in regards to agricultural practices and equipment to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG). We will do our part to address Governor Jerry Brown’s [Executive Order B-30-15](http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18938), setting a target to reduce GHG emissions in the state to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, helping make it possible for California to achieve reductions of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Currently, Spadra Farm, is used by different majors and several educational disciplines such as Plant Science, Irrigation Science, Agriculture Science/Agriculture Education, Urban Agriculture, and Pest Management, Environmental Biology and Landscape Design. Students involved in Agronomy, Soil Science and Horticulture are affected as well and students in the Regenerative Studies program affirm that the Spadra Farm laboratory space is an integral part of campus.

It is on this property that students learn how to grow crops using fewer pesticide applications, utilize biological control, minimize water use for crop production, practice new and efficient technologies for transplanting crops of locally grown vegetables and manage soil erosion and agricultural water runoff.

 It is also on this property that students grow produce for their campus food service, allowing them to meet the 20% locally grown requirement as mandated by the state. It is on this property where students without a background in agriculture learn how to farm and many students acquire the skills to have a successful career in agriculture. According to the USDA, there is an expected 57,900 average annual job openings in the agriculture sector with an average of only 35,400 new U.S. graduates with degrees and expertise in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, or the environment are expected to fill only 61% of the expected annual openings. Agriculture education is vitally important to the agriculture industry and the world as it moves into the second part of this century meeting the needs of the world.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in 2013, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture accounted for approximately 9% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture have increased by approximately 17% since 1990. One driver for this increase has been the 54% growth in combined CH4 and N2O emissions from livestock manure management systems, reflecting the increased use of emission-intensive liquid systems over this time period. Emissions from agricultural soil management have also increased by about 17% since 1990. Emissions from other agricultural sources have either remained flat or changed by a relatively small amount since 1990.

We are in a unique setting in urban Los Angeles County. Because of our valuable agricultural resource, we have the ability to enter into long term research projects and collaborations to address the increasing GHG emissions in agricultural practices in hopes to achieve state of the art improvements in agriculture for California, the nation, and the world.

By 2050, the world population is expected to grow to 9 billion people putting more pressure on agriculture to produce more and more and we feel we are in the best position to help lead agriculture in this challenge in partnership with CARB being able to meet the needs of the the world while reducing the effects of GHG emissions in the process.

As we support CARB coming to our farm we also respectively request that no further development take place on this land. Spadra Farm is an extremely important resource to our students, our college and our region.

Sincerely,

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