

September 11, 2018

Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on the Aliso Canyon Settlement Agreement

Dear Chair Nichols,

College of the Sequoias would like to express its support for the Aliso Canyon Methane Leak Climate Impacts Mitigation Program which is part of the Aliso Canyon Settlement Agreement.

College of the Sequoias is the community college serving Tulare and Kings counties, the home to 11 of the 17 dairies that are part of the mitigation program. We are in the heart of the dairy community and the COS Tulare campus is the agricultural-focused school.

Using mitigation funds as proposed will help launch a new approach in California to dairy methane reductions by capturing the gas in lagoon digesters, injecting the gas into the pipeline and using it for vehicle fuel. The success of these projects will provide an example to future projects.

In addition to local air protection, the projects provide other important local benefits. California Bioenergy and its farmer partners have been working closely with COS to develop well-paid internship for our students. It also is establishing a scholarship fund for students to attend COS or for graduating students to attend four-year colleges. The internship and scholarship programs are focused on students from disadvantaged communities and enable our students to be involved in learning about new technologies in the agriculture/dairy industry. Exposure of the future workforce and business owners is important as the industry continues to evolve and adapt.

As I understand it, the projects repay the loans with interest to the state, which will direct the funds to provide benefits to the local residents of the Porter Ranch community. The initiatives, as mentioned above, are made possible by the projects built with mitigation loan funding.

Sincerely,



Dr. C. Louann Waldner
Provost, COS Tulare College Center
Dean, Agriculture at College of the Sequoias