



CSU Bakersfield

School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering

Office of the Dean

Mail Stop: 13 SCI
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022

(661) 654-3450
(661) 654-6959 FAX
www.csub.edu/nsme

September 12, 2018

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

Re: Support of the Methane Mitigation Program

Dear Chair Nichols,

I am the Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), and I am writing to express our support for the Methane Leak Climate Impacts Mitigation Program which is part of the Aliso Canyon Settlement Agreement.

California State University, Bakersfield is located near six of the seventeen dairies that are part of the mitigation program. The Kern Cluster has been a center for learning and advancing the development of dairy digesters in the state. The mitigation funds will help launch a new approach in California to improving local air quality through dairy methane reductions; the dairy lagoon biogas is captured, upgraded, injected into the pipeline and used as a vehicle fuel.

These projects will provide opportunities to our CSUB science and engineering students. California Bioenergy and the dairies have a track record of working closely with CSUB in developing educational programs and a well-paid internship program. The next stage - the result of the development of the Kern Cluster vehicle fuels program funded by the Mitigation Program - will be to support student participation in academic research. The internship and research programs are, and will be, focused on students from disadvantaged communities.

The mitigation program is funded with debt. This seems to be an innovative approach that will provide benefits to the local residents of the Porter Ranch community.

Advancing California's world leading climate initiatives, reducing local air pollution, benefiting Porter Ranch residents, and providing research experiences for our students are all reasons to support the mitigation loan funding. Thus, we do support the mitigation settlement.

Please let me know if you have questions, or if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Madden".

Kathleen Madden, Dean