



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Farmers Commend Action of Legislature and Governor on Groundwater Management

Sacramento, CA — Today, farmers and sustainable agriculture organizations expressed their appreciation for Governor Brown's signatures on a package of bills to manage the state's groundwater, as well as for the leadership of the legislature in passing SB 1168, SB 1319 and AB 1739 at the end of the legislative session in August. Here are some reactions:

"Local groundwater management is long overdue for such an important agricultural region as California," said Rich Collins, a Solano County farmer and President of the Board of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers. "These bills will help provide certainty for everyone in the state."

"We need to know how much water is in the ground and how it is recharged, and we need to manage both groundwater use and recharge in order to sustain farming in California," said David Runsten, Policy Director with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers.

"Farmers and ranchers all across California are struggling with this drought. But it's the small and medium sized family farmers who are at the greatest disadvantage if they can't afford to dig a deeper well," said Phil McGrath of McGrath Family Farm in Ventura County. "Doing a better job of managing groundwater will level the playing field for everyone."

"Climate change is a game changer for California's water resources," said Renata Brillinger, Executive Director with the California Climate and Agriculture Network. "Today, California ends its 'wild west' era of water management and joins other Western states in regulating our groundwater for the benefit of future generations."

CAFF is a statewide organization that represents both farmers and non-farm urban residents who support sustainable food and farming policies. www.caff.org

CalCAN is a coalition of sustainable agriculture organizations and farmer member groups that advocates for policies that advance sustainable agricultural solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation. www.calclimateag.org

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