



For Immediate Release
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Best Farming Practices Signed by the Governor

SACRAMENTO— Assemblymember Luis Alejo's (D-Salinas) AB 2174 Best Farming Practices was signed by Governor Brown today. AB 2174 provides access to an existing underutilized funding source in the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) that can lead to more efficient application of fertilizers to prevent future contamination of the state's watersheds.

"The agricultural industry is facing increased regulation by regional water boards and needs support to respond effectively to new requirements. Providing technical education to farmers and ranchers could lead to more efficient application of fertilizers, resulting in cost savings to farmers who use less fertilizer and thereby also preventing future ground water contamination," said Alejo.

"We are very pleased that the Governor has signed AB 2174, and we are even more pleased that it had bipartisan support and that CDFA has embraced the need to reach out to farmers with more information about managing their use of nitrogen fertilizers in order to decrease their impact on groundwater," said Dave Runsten, Policy Director of the California Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF).

"AB 2174 will help move the state from theory to practice by making existing funding available to translate research findings into on-the-ground assistance for growers to address fertilizer issues specific to their ranches," said Jeanne Merrill, Policy Director with the California Climate and Agriculture Network.

The Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) was established in 1990 to provide funding for research and education regarding the use and handling of fertilizing material. AB 2174 clarifies that the fund can be used to provide technical assistance to farmers on the appropriate use of fertilizing material.

Luis Alejo represents the 28th District in the California State Assembly, which consists of San Benito County, the Salinas Valley, North Monterey County, South Santa Clara County and the city of Watsonville.

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