



Ventura County Coalition of
Labor, Agriculture and Business
P.O. Box 4237, Ventura, CA 93007
Email: execdirector@colabvc.org
www.colabvc.org

December 20, 2016

Re: VC CoLAB Support for Agromin Bioenergy Park, GFO-15-325

Dear Grant Administrators,

Ventura County CoLAB is a business advocacy group representing over 450 members with a strong agricultural base. We support Agromin's request for CEC funding which will allow them to move forward with the Agromin Bioenergy Program. Bioenergy facilities are needed for our community to divert organics from local landfills according to several State mandates. Together, these regulations will require 90% of organic materials to be diverted from landfills by 2025. These facilities are necessary to process and compost organic materials in Ventura County to comply with these laws.

In October of 2014 Governor Brown signed AB 1826 into law requiring businesses to recycle their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. This law also requires that on and after January 1, 2016, local jurisdictions across the state implement an organic waste recycling program to divert organic waste generated by businesses, including multifamily residential dwellings that consist of five or more units. Annual reports will be required in 2020 and if CalRecycle determines that the statewide disposal of organic waste in 2020 has not been reduced by 50 percent of the level of disposal during 2014, the organic recycling requirements on businesses will expand, negatively impacting our membership.

VC CoLAB advocates for local agriculture and energy production. We believe that Agromin's project will benefit our local community by generating renewable energy and compost for agricultural businesses. In the first installment of the Limoneira Project, it is estimated that 25,000 tons of food and green waste per year will be anaerobically digested and 5.5 million kWh of renewable electricity will be produced for the Grid every year. The 25,000 tons is also estimated to produce 12,500 tons of compost per year which would enhance soil and water retention for agriculture and improve water quality in the region. The bioenergy program will provide benefits of approximately 15,900 MTCO₂e/year in greenhouse gas emissions through removing organics from the landfills and enhancing carbon sequestration in soil.

In addition, the project's intended cooperation with FoodShare will assist in supporting the disadvantaged population in our community, helping to ensure food security.

We look forward to working with Agromin in achieving the goals of this program and appreciate the opportunity to provide support for Agromin's Bioenergy Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Gray Jensen".

Lynn Gray Jensen - Executive Director