



California Small Agricultural Business Drought Relief Grant Program Statement

The California Rice Commission and its 2,500 family farmers and handlers applaud the California Legislature for passing the first of its kind \$75 million California Small Agricultural Business Drought Relief Grant Program, which will provide critical assistance needed by so many within California's agricultural sector to survive this historic drought.

Created out of crisis, this newly developed program will provide vital assistance to small ag businesses throughout the Sacramento Valley, many that have been part of their rural communities for generations. The \$60,000 – \$100,000 grants are crucial for the small businesses that support the California rice industry's production process, like rice dryers, mills, ag aircraft businesses, suppliers, service providers and trucking companies.

"We are very appreciative of the Legislature's willingness to extend drought relief to the businesses that support our farms for which crop insurance is not an option. Without them we can't continue to provide food, jobs in our local communities and unparalleled environmental benefits. The Administration and especially Secretary Ross deserves credit for acknowledging our concerns and advocating for the grant program," said California Rice Commission President & CEO Tim Johnson.

We look forward to Governor Newsom signing what will be a landmark bill, AB 157.