



Governor Newsom Signs Groundbreaking \$75 Million Drought Relief Grant Program for Small Ag Businesses

After including funding into his May budget proposal, Governor Newsom has signed a groundbreaking bill that will provide much needed relief for small agricultural businesses during this historic drought crisis.

“With drought threatening California’s agricultural economy, businesses and jobs within our rural ag communities, this landmark \$75 million program will help provide necessary drought relief to small businesses, that are vital links in keeping the Sacramento Valley’s ag supply chain connected,” said California Rice Commission President & CEO Tim Johnson.

The program offers \$60,000 – \$100,000 grants to qualified small agricultural businesses, including those that support the California rice industry. The grants will be open to, ag aircraft businesses, ag suppliers, ag service providers, ag trucking companies, rice dryers, mills as well as small or socially disadvantaged farmers.

“We especially want to show our appreciation to California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Secretary Karen Ross for her leadership in creating this new drought relief program and for her continued support for California’s agriculture and the farm economy throughout this crisis,” said Johnson.

The California Rice Commission and coalition including the Northern California Water Association, California Warehouse Association, California Agricultural Aircraft Association, California Tomato Growers, Ag Council of California and Western Plant Health Association applaud Governor Newsom and the CA Legislature for proactive bi-partisan support in this groundbreaking drought relief program.