



California Department of Food and Agriculture
Attention: Karen Ross, Secretary of Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Future Dairy Task Force PD Request

June 23, 2014

Dear Honorable Secretary Karen Ross & Members of the Future Dairy Task Force,

As the details of the proposed Future Dairy Task Force Hybrid CDFA CA Milk Pool plans are discussed considered and drafted, California PD (Producer-Distributors) request the following privileges and exemptions as provided under the all of the Federal Milk Pool Orders. The inclusion of this request will align the proposed CA Hybrid plan with all the Federal Orders with respect to exemptions provided to vertically integrated Producer Distributors that own their own milk and utilize their own source of milk in their own plants.

As a Producer Distributor under the Federal Milk Pool orders, each PD is provided a monthly Milk Pool exemption of up to 3 million pounds of milk as provided by his own production. As the CA Future Dairy Task Force considers a hybrid plan to evolve the CA Milk Pool, we jointly request that an exemption similar to the Federal Milk Pool exemption be included in the CA Hybrid Plan. The PD exemption under the Federal Orders has been upheld by the courts and is now settled law. We believe that an exemption for Producer Distributors in CA is the right thing to do, it supports individual innovation, value added branding, new local product creation, sustainability, keeps financial resources on the farm where they are needed, and creates jobs. Although this letter is signed by just four CA PD, many others strongly support this amendment and proposal.

Most kind regards,

Noel Rosa
Rosa Brothers
Tulare CA

Mark McAfee
Organic Pastures Dairy
Fresno CA

Tony & Barbara Martin
Dairy Goddess
Lemoore CA

Ron Locke
Top of the Morn
Tulare CA



Only living milk brings life!



Letter of Support for Change to Federal Milk Pool Order

Deputy Administrator

USDA/ AMS Dairy Programs

STOP 0231, Room 2971

1400 Independence Ave. SW

Washington, DC 20250-0225

RE: Disorderly & Unfair California Milk Pool Conditions for PD's and Support for change to Federal Milk Pool System.

February 18, 2015,

Dear USDA,

The current California Milk Pool system is highly unjust at many levels. The CDFA Milk Pool requirement that negatively effects the vertically integrated Producer-Distributors (PD) is particularly unjust, unfair and economically oppressive. As a PD, we utilize our own milk from our own dairy and cows, yet we are required to pay into the CA milk pool for utilizing our own milk. It is our best guess that our payments are then sent to large cheese producers or processors as a subsidy. The CA Milk Pool refuses to reveal to us where our payment funds are actually paid citing privacy rights for those that receive payments from the pool.

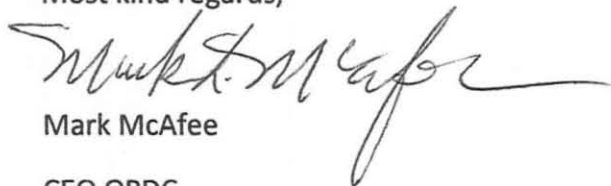
As a USDA certified organic PD producer payments into the conventional milk pool is particularly unjust. The payment subsidies that organic PD's pay into the pool support use of GMO, antibiotics, hormones and CAFO systems. None of these systems are part of the organic philosophy or markets. In December 2014, our pasture based organic dairy paid \$55,000 dollars into the CDFA milk pool, when using our own milk, to make our own products, at our

on farm creamery facilities, that were carried to market in our own trucks and sold under our family brand!

Other organic and also conventional California PD operators also endorse the change to the Federal Milk Pool system. As you know the Federal Milk Pool orders provide for an exemption for up to 11,000 gallons per day from a PD's own production. "Organic Pastures Dairy Company" Fresno CA, "Dairy Goddess" Hanford CA, "Top O the Morn" Tulare CA, "Rosa Brothers" Tulare CA, "Straus Family" Marin County CA, "Rock View" Los Angeles CA, are all CA PD's and all support the change to the Federal Milk Pool system.

We all find great comfort in knowing that the USDA federal milk pool orders provide for an exemption for PD's that includes an 11,000 gallon per day exclusion. We all strongly support the move for California to enter the Federal Milk Pool System **as soon as possible.**

Most kind regards,



Mark McAfee

CEO OPDC

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This letter also represents this list of PD's under a consortium agreement: Top of the Morn, Dairy Goddess, Rosa Brothers, & OPDC