

Restore the Delta
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June 26, 2025

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
submitted electronically

RE: Letter of Support for LLNL's Proposal to GFO-24-501

To Whom It May Concern,

Restore the Delta is pleased to express our strong support for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL) proposal to GFO-24-501. This project represents a unique and valuable opportunity for our farmer network to explore viable pathways toward agricultural decarbonization, grounded in practical technoeconomic analysis and real-world experiences.

We are a nonprofit based in Stockton, California, dedicated to protecting the cultural, environmental, and economic vitality of the San Joaquin Delta region. We work closely with rural communities and farmers to advance equitable, and sustainable solutions that address water, climate, and infrastructure challenges. Through our Carbon and Energy Program and Sustainable Agriculture Program, we are uniquely positioned to support this work.

Our Carbon and Energy Program evaluates emerging climate technology industries in the Delta region, with a focus on environmental and economic risks, public health implications, and community benefits. We collaborate with carbon removal and energy industries, government agencies, national labs, and community-based organizations to develop research and policy solutions grounded in environmental justice.

Our Sustainable Agriculture Program works directly with Delta farmers through multiple initiatives including sustainable farming, and rice growing educational handbooks, workforce development for green high paying jobs, and technical training programs that support agricultural innovation and sustainability.

Our participation in this project will involve connecting LLNL researchers with our network of farmers throughout rural San Joaquin County to document their experiences with electrification—highlighting what has worked, what hasn't, and what concerns remain. LLNL, in turn, will use these insights to conduct tailored technoeconomic analyses that assess alternatives to fossil fuel systems in on-farm operations, such as solar-powered groundwater pumping, small wind installations, or electrified cold storage and tractor technologies.

Critically, this proposal builds on a foundation of mutual trust and meaningful collaboration between RTD and LLNL. Over the past several years, we have partnered on Department of Energy-funded efforts, including a CarbonSAFE carbon storage initiative and the development

of a Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework for Direct Air Capture with Storage (DACS). Through these projects, LLNL has shown a consistent commitment to listening, engaging communities with respect and humility, and offering rigorous, objective technical expertise—qualities essential for working effectively with our farmer network, many of whom are rightly cautious about new technologies and programs.

What excites us about this initiative is that it is not driven by a specific vendor or prescriptive solution, but rather by a shared desire to evaluate a range of technology-agnostic, community-informed options for non-fossil energy systems. This approach gives our members the flexibility and support needed to make informed decisions that reflect their values and needs.

We strongly support LLNL's proposal and look forward to continuing our partnership. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

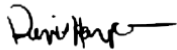
Sincerely,



Esther Mburu
Carbon & Energy Policy Analyst



Sara Medina
Sustainable Agriculture & Land Manager



Davis Harper Zapata
Director of Strategic Planning