



# FARM BUREAU SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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January 13, 2016

Dr. Soraya M. Coley  
President  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
3801 West Temple Avenue  
Pomona, CA 91768

Dear President Coley,

It has come to our attention that your office is considering the development of a large portion of Spadra Farm on the campus of Cal Poly Pomona. Please know that the members of the San Diego County Farm Bureau Board of Directors took unanimous action last week to express opposition to the development plan.

Spadra Farm is known for its importance in providing a working farm environment for students pursuing majors in Plant Science, Agriculture Science, Agriculture Education, Urban Agriculture, and Pest Management. When you consider that Agronomy, Soil Science, Horticulture, and Irrigation Science students also make use of Spadra Farm, the entire spectrum of agricultural education at Cal Poly Pomona will suffer a loss with the proposed development.

Good agricultural land in southern California is a rare commodity. Having that land within reach of well-recognized agricultural college in southern California is rarer yet. If that land is lost, the loss can never be recovered.

As the largest agricultural state in the nation, California should be expected to have the largest need for agricultural graduates entering the fields of agriculture. In no educational pursuit is "learn-by-doing" more important than in agriculture. While the academic side of agricultural education is critical, it is the actual work in the field that prepares students for a career in agriculture. You should expect that the loss of Spadra Farm will diminish the capacity for Cal Poly Pomona to provide the hands-on experience that is critical for your students' success in agriculture.

It is our plea that you reconsider the development of Spadra Farm and protect this great asset for current students and the generations of students to follow.

Sincerely,

Eric Larson  
Executive Director