

CAPITOL OFFICE  
1021 O STREET  
SUITE 7220  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4023

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1758 ORANGE TREE LANE  
SUITE B  
REDLANDS, CA 92374  
(909) 335-0271

SENATOR.OCHOABOGH@SENATE.CA.GOV

SR23.SENATE.CA.GOV

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH**  
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
EDUCATION  
VICE CHAIR  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
HOUSING  
VICE CHAIR  
HUMAN SERVICES  
VICE CHAIR  
INSURANCE  
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Mike McGuire  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Josh Becker Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #2  
1020 N Street, Room 7250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Robert Rivas  
Speaker of the Assembly  
1020 O Street, Room 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Room 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Steve Bennett, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4  
1021 O Street, Room 4710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: REQUEST FOR \$45 MILLION GRANT FUNDING TO ASSIST GROWERS**

Dear Governor Newsom and Members,

We are writing to request a \$45 million emergency allocation from the 2024-25 State Budget to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to fund a grant program that would provide relief to commercial citrus and other growers experiencing economic hardship brought on by the exotic fruit fly infestation affecting the counties we represent.

While we are deeply grateful for the \$22.1 million allocated in the Governor's January budget proposal to fund the actions needed to suppress and eradicate these invasive pests, we were disappointed that no funding was allocated to provide aid to the growers impacted within the [quarantine zones](#).

California is experiencing the highest level of exotic fruit fly infestations in its recorded history. As of early 2024, there have been more than 900 fruit fly detections in 15 counties, a significant increase from the seven flies found in a typical year.

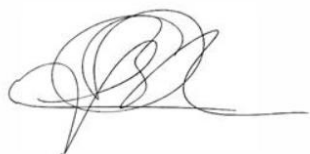
Exotic fruit fly species pose the greatest risk and highest impacts to California agriculture because these invasive species can produce large population numbers through high reproductive rates and short generation times, which is worsened due to a relatively dry, warm winter season. Fruit flies are prolific feeders that can consume hundreds of different plant hosts, and the larvae (maggots) are internal fruit feeders that render plant material completely inedible. CDFA, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and County Agricultural Commissioners, has initiated local regulatory measures to eradicate and prevent the statewide spread of the Queensland fruit fly, Tau fruit fly, Mediterranean fruit fly and Oriental fruit fly.

The infestation has led to restrictions on moving fruit from the quarantine areas. While we understand there will be catastrophic consequences for California's economy if the outbreaks are not controlled, these restrictions are currently having a significant impact on commercial growers within the quarantined areas.

The \$45 million appropriation would be available in the form of grants to growers within the quarantine areas who have significant crop loss and are not eligible for crop insurance to cover their losses. Providing financial support to these struggling growers better incentivizes compliance with quarantine standards, which prevents the spread of fruit flies and keeps California's agricultural sector competitive.

We are thankful for your leadership on California's most pressing challenges and appreciate your commitment to finding solutions to assist the commercial growers located in the quarantined areas.

Sincerely,



ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH  
Senator, 23<sup>rd</sup> District



JOSH NEWMAN  
Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> District



KELLY SEYARTO  
Senator, 32<sup>nd</sup> District



GREG WALLIS  
Assemblymember, 47<sup>th</sup> District



TOM LACKEY  
Assemblymember, 34<sup>th</sup> District



SCOTT WILK  
Senator, 21<sup>st</sup> District



BILL ESSAYLI  
Assemblymember, 63<sup>rd</sup> District

cc: Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance  
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus