

TO: City Council
FROM: James L. App, City Manager
SUBJECT: PRUSD: Agricultural Education Incentive Grants
DATE: March 18, 2014

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider joining the PRUSD School Board in urging the Governor to continue funding Agricultural Education Incentive Grants (AEIG).

FACTS:

1. Since 1983, the State of California has allocated money to a matching grant program designed to incentivize agricultural education program improvement.
2. Local school districts provide matching funds which are used to modernize equipment and technology, support student leadership skill development and personal growth opportunities.
3. The Governor's proposed budget deletes AEIG funding.
4. Discontinuation of AEIG may diminish the diversity, breadth and integrity of agricultural education programming.
5. The Paso Robles Unified School District Board of Trustees has adopted a resolution urging the Governor and Legislature to continue funding AEIG.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: Paso Robles High School is well known for very successful and vigorous agricultural education and job skills training. Many students have excelled and gone on to succeed in both higher education and agricultural industry pursuits.

Continued matching grant funding support aids in continuing exceptional training for local students. The City's Economic Strategy promotes, supports, and encourages expanding funding for a full continuum of education opportunities.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Economic Strategy

FISCAL

IMPACT: None (for the City).

OPTIONS: A). Adopt Resolution No.____ Urging Continued Funding of California's Agricultural Education Incentive Grants.

B). Amend, Modify or Reject the Option Above.

Attachments

Agriculture Education Incentive Grant Program (AEIG)

History and Background

- Enacted in 1983 by California's State Legislature as a part of a state budget allocation for public schools.
- Designed to incentivize or motivate districts to adopt strategies that lead to systemic and sustained agriculture education program improvement over time.
- \$4.13 million allocated statewide through matching grants to schools implementing actions that are above basic course standards.

Program Impact

- Participating districts have to provide matching funds from local sources to ensure their continued commitment to local program activities.
- Funds are used to update and modernize equipment and technology, as well as provide vital resources for developing leadership skills and personal growth opportunities for students.
- In order to be eligible for AEIG funds, programs must maintain high standards of performance as outlined by identified quality criterion governed by the state. This is what is known in the Ag Ed world as "meeting the checklist."

The Agriculture Education Incentive Grant Program is standards based funding. Participating school districts have to have programs that can successfully complete Quality Criterion 1-9 and 12 (on the AEIG checklist) annually through a variety of different program aspects. Those standards are verified through documentation;

- QC 1) Curriculum and Instruction
- QC 2) Leadership and Citizenship Development
- QC 3) Supervised Agriculture Experience
- QC 4) Qualified and Competent Personnel
- QC 5) Facilities, Equipment, and Materials
- QC 6) Community, Business and Industry Involvement
- QC 7) Career Guidance
- QC 8) Program Promotion
- QC 9) Program Accountability and Planning
- QC 12) Student/ Instructor Activity Participation, Graduate Follow-up

Governor Brown's Proposed Budget

- Removes AEIG (and other) funding from it's categorical status and redirects that money to all other school districts to pay back the "IOU" made by the state for the loss in ADA revenues.
- This proposal creates further deficit spending where all districts will now receive \$.66 per student regardless if they previously supported and maintained an Agriculture Education Program. The source of revenue will be the \$4.13 million, previously known as the Agriculture Education Incentive Grant.
- Once school districts meet their target funding, the steps will be complete and there will be no additional funding.
- Target funding won't be adjusted for those districts that previously supported Agriculture Education.

“If it’s a valuable program, the schools will find a way to fund”

- Historically in California, there are three primary drivers in education; 1) the types of classes mandated by the state, 2) the measurements used to evaluate the schools, and 3) the funding that is provided for the programs.
- Once the funding for this program disappears, the motivation for the districts to continue funding them will reduce as well. No standards of performance required to be met for the grant = no motivation to carry a program.
- In comparison, within the one year since the removal of state funding, ROP has seen a reduction of over 100,000 students and the elimination of 19.6% of it's CTE teachers.
- The Governor still plans to give the districts control of their money to support what they wish, but there are no plans to change graduation requirements and the expensive new testing system that's just on the horizon will still need implementing at all districts.

The implications for Paso Robles Agriculture

Over the past 5 years, Paso Robles has been allocated \$111,554 from the state, with near matching funds made by the district.



These funds have been matched by the district to support a variety of needs for our program including the three areas that make up our Agriculture Education Program; Classroom, Supervised Agriculture Experience, and the FFA. Below are some of the items that the funding helps support;

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| FFA Membership Dues | Section, Region and State CATA Meetings |
| FFA Leadership Packets | CATA Registration |
| Chapter Officer Training/Retreat | California Mid-State Fair |
| Chapter Officer Leadership Conference | Curriculum Materials |
| Go for the Gold Activities | Classroom Supplies |
| Opening/Closing Contest | Lab materials and Equipment |
| Section Speaking Contest | Farm Equipment Repair & Maintenance |
| Regional Meeting/ Speaking Finals | Farm Equipment Purchases |
| State Public Speaking Finals | Farm Maintenance |
| State FFA Leadership Conference | Livestock Medical Supplies |
| National FFA Convention/ Finals | Promotional Items/Information |

- On average our annual state allocation is \$22,310.80
- Under the \$.66 per student allocation currently in the Governor's LCFF allocation, PRJUSD will receive roughly \$4356.66 which is no longer incentivized money for Ag Ed
- Projected annual shortfall from the state to support Agriculture Education = \$17,954.14
- This means that what we currently have now is all that we ever will get. No money for upgrades, maintenance, repair, new equipment, supplies, materials, student dues, travel cost, conference costs, etc

Paso Robles Agriculture Education at a glance over the past 5 years

- 44 State FFA Degree Recipients
- 6 SAE Proficiency Award Winners
- 2 American Degree Recipients
- 6 Current American Degree Applicants
- 1 State FFA Officers
- 7 State Public Speaking Finalists
- Opening & Closing Ceremonies Contest- 8 Teams either in 1st or 2nd Place
- 6 Regional FFA Officers
- 12 Sectional FFA Officers
- Project Competition Participants- 18 (Both division winners from PR FFA this year)
- Average monthly meeting attendance- 100 FFA members
- 7 State FFA Livestock Judging and Welding Team top five finalists
- State FFA Livestock Judging Team Champions
- National Livestock Judging 5th Place Team
- Over 350 Supervised Agriculture Experience Projects valued at over \$522,039
- \$6.1 Million Agriculture Facility

What we can do to help support the reimplementation of the Agriculture Education Incentive Grant program

- Local districts that have supported Agriculture Education funding through the matching grant program can be proactive in showing support for it's continuation in the state budget. California Agriculture Teachers Association Executive Director Jim Ashwanden has offered the following suggestions;
- Contacting our State Representatives to let them know that we want this program to continue to be funded;
 - Senator Bill Monning
1026 Palm Street Suite 201
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 549-3784

State Capitol Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900
(916) 651-4017
 - Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian
1150 Osos Street Suite 207
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 549-3381

P.O. Box 942849 Room 4098
Sacramento, CA 94249-0035
(916) 319-2035
- Local public information through media outlets
- Local school district, city council, and/or county supervisor resolutions

2012-2013 Enrollment			
County	District	# of Students	At \$0.66/student
Los Angeles		1,564,205	1,032,375.30
	Los Angeles Unified	655,494	432,626.04
Monterey		73,460	48,483.60
	Gonzales Unified	2,443	1,612.38
	King City Joint Union	2,577	1,700.82
	Salinas Union High	13,879	9,160.14
	Soledad Unified	4,708	3,107.28
San Benito		11,233	7,413.78
	San Benito High	3,069	2,025.54
San Luis Obispo		34,670	22,882.20
	Atascadero Unified	4,784	3,157.44
	Lucia Mar Unified	10,566	6,973.56
	Paso Robles Joint Unified	6,601	4,356.66
	San Luis Coastal Unified	7,535	4,973.10
	Shandon Joint Unified	308	203.28
	Templeton Unified	2,360	1,557.60
Santa Barbara		66,837	44,112.42
	Carpinteria Unified	2,308	1,523.28
	Lompoc Unified	9,811	6,475.26
	Cuyama Unified	240	158.40
	Santa Maria Joint Unified	7,636	5,039.76
	Santa Ynez Valley Union High	1,018	671.88
Santa Clara		273,701	180,642.66
	Campbell Union High	7,417	4,895.22
	Gilroy Unified	11,571	7,636.86
	Morgan Hill Unified	9,241	6,099.06
Santa Cruz		39,960	26,373.60
	Santa Cruz City High	4,716	3,112.56
	Pajaro Valley Unified	20,001	13,200.66
Ventura		141,683	93,510.78
	Fillmore Unified	3,812	2,515.92
	Oxnard Union High	16,780	11,074.80
	Santa Paula Union High	1,667	1,100.22
	Ventura Unified	17,402	11,485.32

Commentary: Supporters of agricultural education must mobilize now

Issue Date: January 29, 2014

By Jim Aschwanden

Now that the state budget proposed by the Brown administration would eliminate a key funding source for agricultural education from the state budget, it's time for supporters of ag education to contact legislators, the governor's office and other policy leaders regarding this issue.

Recognizing that agricultural production, processing and ancillary activities play a strategic role in California's future economic growth and vitality, the California Legislature in 1983 enacted the Agricultural Education Incentive Grant program as part of a state budget allocation for public schools. Central to the creation of this program was recognition that the state of California had a compelling interest in ensuring that bright, talented and energetic students were prepared to enter a wide variety of agricultural career choices, given the many challenges, issues and opportunities facing our state.

The Ag Incentive Grant program was designed to motivate or incentivize districts to adopt strategies that led to systemic and sustained program improvement over time. The program provides annual funding of \$4.13 million through matching grants to schools implementing actions that are above basic course standards. For example, Local Ag Advisory Committees are required to conduct systematic and ongoing reviews of curriculum, facilities and program activities tailored to each individual community. Ag Incentive Grant funds are used to update and modernize equipment and technology, as well as provide vital resources for developing leadership skills and personal growth opportunities for students.

It's important to note that participating districts had to become active partners in this process and provide matching funds from local sources to ensure their continued commitment to local program improvement activities. It is also important to note that the proposed cut will not just affect the millions provided by the state, but equates to a cut to these programs of at least twice the annual funding, due to the mandatory local district match of the funds.

The administration proposal to eliminate the Agricultural Education Incentive Grant program would effectively remove targeted incentive funding from high schools currently offering agricultural education programs, and instead redistribute those funds across the board to all schools in California. Schools currently offering agricultural education programs would no longer receive those funds, and districts would lose the incentive to provide the matching grant. Because of education funding requirements, the Ag Incentive Grant does not impact the overall budget or cost taxpayers one more dime. Now, the funds will just be swept into the education bureaucracy throughout the state.

Since the inception of current Agricultural Incentive Grant funding, innovative programs and coursework have been developed that are attracting record numbers of students into agricultural

education programs throughout the state, with more than 74,000 students enrolled in more than 300 programs statewide. Graduate follow-up data compiled since 1983 reveal that agricultural education programs currently send more students on to post-secondary colleges and training institutions, where they graduate with degrees in larger numbers and in shorter time frames than their peers in general academic programs. Today, there are 1,337 ag education courses approved by the University of California and the California State University system for

meeting the admission requirements of those universities, representing 45 percent of agricultural courses offered statewide.

Besides the obvious financial implications of this action, there are serious policy issues that come into play as well. It is universally recognized that there are three primary drivers that motivate schools: what subjects and courses are mandated by the state, what measurements are used by the state to evaluate schools, and what funds are provided for specific programs and activities. If a program is not required, if it is not part of the standardized testing program used to evaluate schools or is not specifically funded, it will simply disappear over time, as schools are increasingly pressured to focus on what is required, measured or funded. In fact, in one year since the administration's funding actions have been implemented, Career Technology enrollment has plummeted by more than 101,000 students, and we lost nearly 20 percent of Career Technical Education teachers in California—a result of cuts previously made to other CTE programs.

This latest action would remove any incentive for districts to continue to offer agricultural education programs, since these courses and programs are not part of the state-mandated graduation coursework, are not part of the computation of current school accountability measures, and would no longer have dedicated funding incentivizing schools to provide the program. Agricultural education will most certainly experience the same decline that we have seen in other CTE areas.

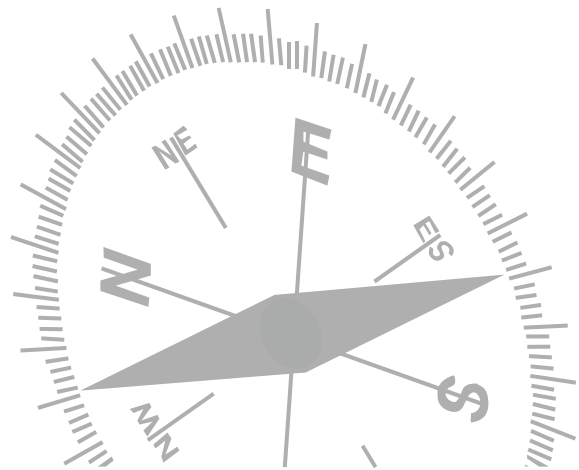
Given that California is the leading agricultural state in the United States and a major component of our state's economic well-being, it is important that strong and vibrant agricultural education programs exist within our schools. Agricultural education programs have produced many leaders at the state, national and international levels who credit those programs with motivating them and developing their leadership potential.

In an era that far too often emphasizes rote memorization and standardized testing strategies, agricultural education offers unique and compelling opportunities for students to develop both their academic and personal life skills. We can only hope that supporters of these programs can work with members of the Legislature and others to help inform the administration that this proposal is not productive or necessary, and in fact jeopardizes students who represent the economic and agricultural future of California.

(Jim Aschwanden is executive director of the California Agricultural Teachers' Association.)

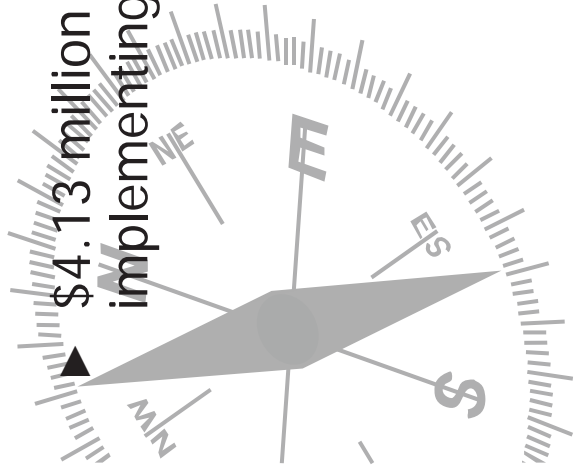
California Farm Bureau Federation Ag Alert- January 29th Publication

Agriculture Education Incentive Grant



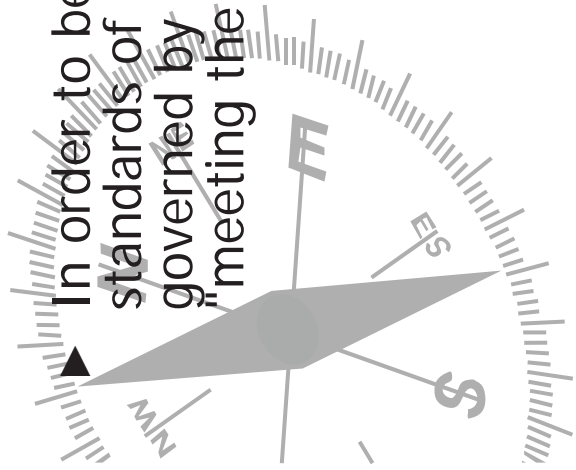
History and Background

- ▶ Enacted in 1983 by California's State Legislature as a part of a state budget allocation for public schools.
- ▶ Designed to incentivize or motivate districts to adopt strategies that lead to systemic and sustained agriculture education program improvement over time.
- ▶ \$4.13 million allocated statewide through matching grants to schools implementing actions that are above basic course standards.



Program Impact

- ▶ Participating districts have to provide matching funds from local sources to ensure their continued commitment to local program activities.
- ▶ Funds are used to update and modernize equipment and technology, as well as provide vital resources for developing leadership skills and personal growth opportunities for students.

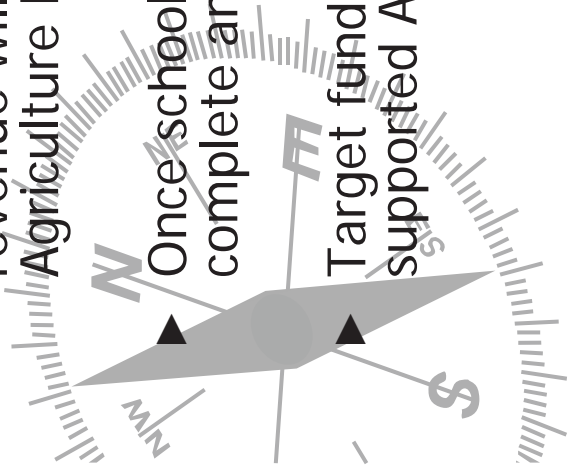


▶ In order to be eligible for AEIG funds, programs must maintain high standards of performance as outlined by identified quality criterion governed by the state. This is what is known in the Ag Ed world as "meeting the checklist."

Governor Brown's Proposed Budget

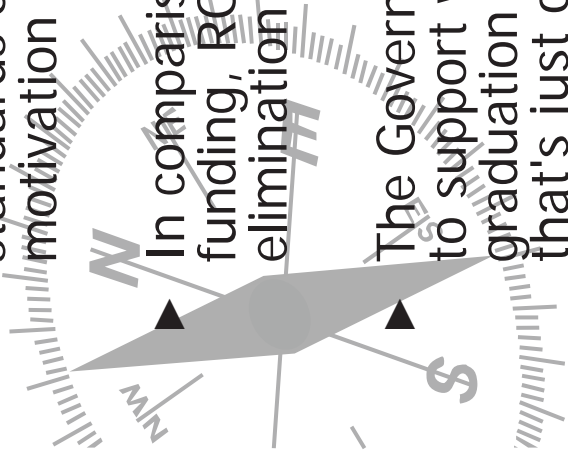
- ▶ Removes AEIG (and other) funding from its categorical status and redirects that money to all other school districts to pay back the "IOU" made by the state for the loss in ADA revenues.
- ▶ This proposal creates further deficit spending where all districts will now receive \$.66 per student regardless if they previously supported and maintained an Agriculture Education Program. The source of revenue will be the \$4.13 million, previously known as the Agriculture Education Incentive Grant.

- ▶ Once school districts meet their target funding, the steps will be complete and there will be no additional funding.
- ▶ Target funding won't be adjusted for those districts that previously supported Agriculture Education.



"If it's a valuable program, the schools will find a way to fund it."

- ▶ Historically in California, there are three primary drivers in education; The types of classes mandated by the state, the measurements used to evaluate the schools, and the funding that is provided for the programs.
- ▶ Once the funding for this program disappears, the motivation for the districts to continue funding them will reduce as well. No standards of performance required to be met for the grant = no motivation to carry a program.



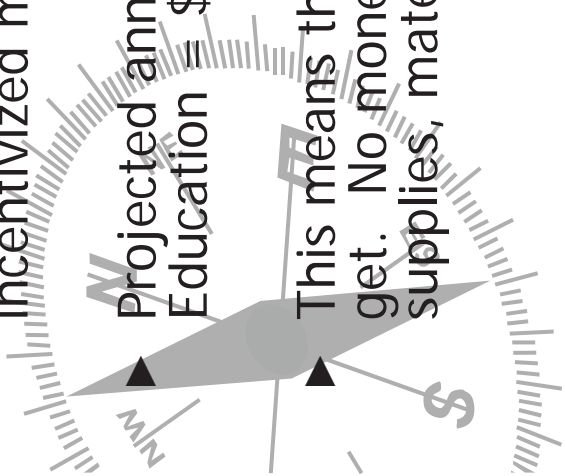
In comparison, within the one year since the removal of state funding, ROP has seen a reduction of over 100,000 students and the elimination of 19.6% of its CTE teachers.

The Governor still plans to give the districts control of their money to support what they wish, but there are no plans to change graduation requirements and the expensive new testing system that's just on the horizon will still need implementing at all districts.

The implications for Paso Robles Agriculture

- ▶ Over the past 5 years, Paso Robles has been allocated \$111,554 from the state, with near matching funds made by the district.
- ▶ On average our annual state allocation is \$22,310.80
- ▶ Under the \$.66 per student allocation currently in the Governor's LCFF allocation, PRJUSD will receive roughly \$4356.66 which is no longer incentivized money for Ag Ed
- ▶ Projected annual shortfall from the state to support Agriculture Education = \$17,954.14

This means that what we currently have now is all that we ever will get. No money for upgrades, maintenance, repair, new equipment, supplies, materials, student dues, travel cost, conference costs, etc



Paso Robles Agriculture Education at a glance over the past 5 years

- ▶ 44 State FFA Degree Recipients
- ▶ 6 SAE Proficiency Award Winners
- ▶ 2 American Degree Recipients
- ▶ 6 Current American Degree Applicants
- ▶ 1 State FFA Officers
- ▶ 7 State Public Speaking Finalists
- ▶ Opening & Closing Ceremonies Contest- 8 Teams either in 1st or 2nd Place
- ▶ 6 Regional FFA Officers
- ▶ 12 Sectional FFA Officers
- ▶ Project Competition Participants- 18 (Both division winners from PR FFA this year)
- ▶ Average monthly meeting attendance- 100 FFA members
- ▶ 7 State FFA Livestock Judging and Welding Team top five finalists
- ▶ State FFA Livestock Judging Team Champions
- ▶ National Livestock Judging 5th Place Team
- ▶ Over 350 Supervised Agriculture Experience Projects valued at over \$522,039
- ▶ \$6.1 Million Agriculture Facility

What we can do to help support the reimplementation of the Agriculture Education Incentive Grant program

► Local districts that have supported Agriculture Education funding through the matching grant program can be proactive in showing support for it's continuation in the state budget. California Agriculture Teachers Association Executive Director Jim Ashwanden has offered the following suggestions;

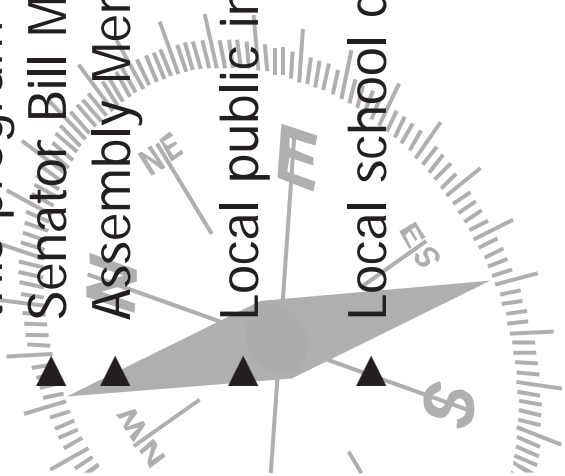
► Contacting our State Representatives to let them know that we want this program to continue to be funded;

► Senator Bill Monning

► Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian

► Local public information through media outlets

► Local school district, city council, and/or county supervisor resolutions



**PASO ROBLES JOINT UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION No. 14-15
RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF
AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
INCENTIVE GRANT**



RESOLUTION NO.14-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES URGING
CONTINUED FUNDING OF K-12 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION INCENTIVE GRANTS

WHEREAS, California's leadership in a variety of innovative and expanding agricultural industries is facilitated by the availability of well-trained and educated personnel; and

WHEREAS, California, being the leading agriculture-producing state in the nation for over 60 years, has a compelling interest in ensuring that it's school system supports and promotes the continued development of innovative and thoughtful agricultural leaders; and

WHEREAS, California's Agricultural Education Incentive Grant program has given clear guidance and direction to school districts throughout California in developing and promoting high quality program standards; and

WHEREAS, The Agriculture Incentive Grant program has provided financial incentives for districts to embark on a systematic and sustained process for improving the delivery and effectiveness of Agricultural Education throughout California; and

WHEREAS, The National FFA Organization, which is integral to high school instruction, has long proven itself as an outstanding teaching strategy that promotes excellence in agriculture education for students throughout California; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the California FFA Association is to teach and promote leadership, personal growth, and career success amongst its members; and

WHEREAS, The National FFA Organization has a long and well established tradition of providing meaningful, relevant leadership development experiences that have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of students in their communities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of El Paso de Robles urges the Governor and all Members of the California State Legislature to support high-quality Agriculture Education in California through continued funding of the Agricultural Education Incentive Grant program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 18th day of March 2014, on the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk