Barbara LeVake, State Legislative Director, California Women for Agriculture
Comments before the California Resources Agency
Workshop on LNG Access Issues and Deliverability of Supply
Secretary of State Office Auditorium
1500 11th Street, First Floor, Sacramento
June 1-2, 2005
Re: Docket No. 05-LNG-1

Good afternoon. My name is Barbara LeVake and I am the State Legislative Director representing California Women for Agriculture – an all volunteer organization with over 3,000 members that support and promote all areas of agriculture throughout the state.

Electricity is a vital part of California agriculture. Statewide, agricultural operators utilize 7.3% of the California's total consumption. Usage of this electricity includes pumping groundwater for irrigation, drying various crops and grains, climate control in greenhouses, frost protection as well as milk production and processing.

California's demand for cleaner sources of electricity has spurred development of new natural gas-fired generators. Continued development of natural gas resources is necessary to meet the demand of electric generation and natural gas uses. A reliable, cost effective supply of natural gas is critical to the growing and processing of California crops. Our family farms are large contributors to California's economy. Lapses in energy supply simply add tremendous hardship on these businesses that continue to be impacted by higher costs. An example of these costs is – fertilizer -- according to Ohio State University extension agent Mike Haubner who has studied the effects of natural gas increases on our industry, "for every $1 increase in the price of natural gas, fertilizer prices increased $35 a ton."

On behalf of all our members -- those growing and processing our food, – I respectfully request that this Commission and Administration do everything in its power to diversify and increase our energy sources. LNG has a strong safety and supply record – it only makes sense that we welcome it with open arms. Please support the development of LNG in our state and return to our state a steady and reliable source of energy.

oOo.

DOCKET
05-LNG-1
DATE
RECD. JUN 03 2005