



7011 Stewart & Gray Road
P.O. Box 668
Downey, California 90241
www.rockviewfarms.com

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U.S. EPA REGION IX
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

November 1, 2010

Ivan Lieben
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Lieben,

This letter is in response to the complaint that we received from your office regarding our violation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act.

Rockview Farms admits to each of the allegations against us and desires to reach a settlement through an informal conference. We feel strongly that the penalties assessed against us are disproportionately high and want to discuss the possibility for further leniency beyond the 30% reduction that was offered before we enter into a Consent Agreement and Final Order.

Our history will show that we understand the importance of environmental compliance and have strived to meet and exceed all regulations regarding our environmental program. We are regularly monitored and found to be in compliance with the Los Angeles County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) in regards to our chemical inventory and its usage. When we were made aware of our oversight to report to the EPCRA we maintained a positive attitude and showed a willingness to achieve compliance immediately by cooperating with your enforcement officers through this process and also employing the services of Associated Environmental Management to assist us with the EPCRA reporting requirements and to ensure that we remain compliant.

It should also be recognized that our facility had reporting chemicals close to borderline violations as low as 4% over the reporting threshold and did not have any reportable chemical in the past five years exceeding 37,000 pounds of release.

We respectfully ask that you consider our request for further reductions to the penalties that have been imposed upon us. We look forward to discussing these issues further with you through an informal conference. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions prior to our conference.

Sincerely,

Bill Kroese
Rockview Farms

