



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0268 – Room 4008-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0200

February 06, 2004

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Secretary Kawamura:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the State of California is the first State to be granted approval for a State Organic Program (SOP) under the National Organic Program. California's SOP is effective February 6, 2004.

With approval of an SOP, California agrees to administer and enforce the National Organic Standards and to request approval from the Department of Agriculture prior to amending any existing provisions of the SOP.

Congratulations, and we look forward to working with you on behalf of the Nation's producers, handlers, and consumers of organic agricultural products. Please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance with any issues that may arise concerning administration and enforcement of the National Organic Standards under your State program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Yates". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being prominent.

A. J. Yates
Administrator