

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	22-DECARB-03
Project Title:	Equitable Building Decarbonization Program
TN #:	250859
Document Title:	Renata Valladares Comments - Importance of Including Farmworker Population
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Renata Valladares
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	6/30/2023 10:41:35 AM
Docketed Date:	6/30/2023

*Comment Received From: Renata Valladares
Submitted On: 6/30/2023
Docket Number: 22-DECARB-03*

Importance of Including Farmworker Population

The CEC's efforts to promote building decarbonization in an equitable and inclusive approach are commendable. Among the state's disadvantaged communities, we would like to call particular attention to the plight of agricultural workers. California's 400,000 farmworkers face some of the greatest health threats from climate change, including heat stress and wildfire smoke exposure in their outdoor work as well as at home. Farmworker housing offers little respite from high temperatures and poor air quality, as most residences have no or low-performing cooling technology. Despite the disproportionate climate impacts borne by these workers, their communities are often overlooked in public programs.

The Equitable Building Decarbonization program offers a unique opportunity to extend health and energy equity to agricultural workers. Farmworker properties, by and large, fit the program criteria of Property Eligibility (manufactured/mobile), Fuel Type (fossil fuel for water heating) and Income (less than 80% AMI). We urge the CEC to specify the farmworker population among the disadvantaged communities to be benefitted by heat pump installation and retrofits, given both the high demand and the disproportionate burden they bear from climate change impacts.