



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Agricultural Labor Relations Board Secures Offer to Rehire and Thousands in Lost Wages for Two Strawberry Workers in Santa Maria Who Claimed They Were Wrongfully Fired for Complaining About Working Conditions.**

SANTA MARIA, Calif. – Red Blossom Farms, Inc. located in Santa Maria, California agreed to rehire and pay \$8,399 in lost wages to two strawberry workers to settle an unfair labor practice charge filed on September 23, 2022 with the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB), which was investigating the workers' claims.

The charge alleged that Red Blossom Farms, Inc. laid off two agricultural workers and refused to rehire them because they complained about a foreman's misconduct and mistreatment of workers.

In a settlement agreement with the ALRB finalized on December 21, 2022, Red Blossom Farms, Inc. agreed to pay the lost wages and rehire the workers, as well as to respect the rights of farm workers to join together to speak up and seek improvements to their working conditions without retaliation. ALRB agents will read a Notice to all agricultural workers at Red Blossom Farms about their rights under the Agricultural Labor Relations Act. This Notice will be posted at the workplace for 60 days and mailed to former employees. The ALRB will also conduct a training for Red Blossom Farms supervisors about farm workers' rights under the Agricultural Labor Relations Act.

The ALRB enforces the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which states that "it is the policy of the State of California to encourage and protect the right of agricultural employees to full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, to negotiate the terms and conditions of their employment, and to be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives of in self-organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection."

The ALRB is headquartered in Sacramento and maintains field offices in Santa Rosa, Salinas, Oxnard, Visalia, and Indio. Those wishing to access ALRB services may call the Oxnard office number, (805) 973-5062, or a statewide toll-free phone number, (800) 449-3699. More information is available at [www.alrb.ca.gov](http://www.alrb.ca.gov).