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**Mary Zischke to Retire as Executive Director of the California Leafy Greens Research Board;
Jennifer Clarke Named as Successor**

Salinas, Calif. –The California Leafy Greens Research Board (LGRB) has named Jennifer Clarke as the incoming Executive Director as Mary Zischke prepares to retire.

Mary Zischke has served as the Executive Director of the California Leafy Greens Board since 2006. Zischke’s commitment to the Leafy Greens Industry goes far beyond her tenure as Executive Director. Zischke conducted research on lettuce downy mildew while a graduate student at UC Davis and later served as a board member to the LGRB during her 21 year tenure at Dole Fresh Vegetables.

Clarke earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Fruit Science from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. She first began working in the wine industry in Santa Ynez, then moved to the Salinas Valley in 2001 and started her career in the leafy greens industry. Clarke worked in Pesticide Use Enforcement for the Monterey Agricultural Commissioner and as a Pest Control Advisor for Tanimura & Antle. It was at Tanimura & Antle that she became involved in food safety and was able to transfer her skills to assist Christensen & Giannini as a Food Safety Manager in 2007. Most recently Clarke has led Food Safety and Regulatory Compliance programs as a Vice President at Steinbeck Country Produce.

Clarke has been active in many industry organizations including California Women for Agriculture, Monterey County Farm Bureau, the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California, the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement, and the Arizona Leafy Green Products Shipper Marketing Agreement.

Clarke brings extensive experience in food safety, labor, and production to the Leafy Green Products Shipper Marketing Agreement. “I am excited to work with Mary Zischke during the transition. She is someone I have long admired and respect greatly. Working with the industry and researchers to continue to developed tools for agriculture through science and research will be very rewarding, given the importance of sound science as growers make production and food safety decisions.”, said Clarke.

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