

11/14/02



November 14, 2002

Almond Board of California
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Dr. Michael Adams, Acting Director
Division of Nutrition Science and Policy
Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling and Dietary Supplements
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740-3835

RE: Health Claim Petition for Walnuts to FDA (Docket # 02P-0292)

Dear Dr. Adams:

Please find attached the collective comments of the International Tree Nut Council Nutrition Research and Education Foundation (INC-NREF) to the California Walnut Commission Petition (Docket #02P-0292). The Almond Board of California (ABC) has worked with INC-NREF members for the past two years to assess the totality of scientific evidence supporting the cardioprotective evidence of nuts.

Since the inception of the ABC Nutrition Research Program in 1995, the Board has supported over \$4 million of clinical research in top U.S. academic institutions and abroad to evaluate the relationship between almond consumption, cardiovascular disease, and related risk factors. We were very pleased that seven almond clinical trials met the scientific criteria to be included in the INC-NREF petition that demonstrates that nuts, as a group, lower cholesterol and, thereby, reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

Sincerely,

Karen Lapsley
Dr. Karen Lapsley
Director of Scientific Affairs

KL:je

cc: Ned Ryan, ABC Chairman of the Board
Richard Waycott, ABC President and CEO

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