

**CA State Board of Food and Agriculture
Agricultural Air Quality Research Policy Resolution**

WHEREAS, California farmers and ranchers produce more than 350 crop and livestock commodities which generates more than \$100 billion in related economic activity for the state; and

Whereas, Air, Water, land, food and fiber are strategic resources of the state that must be improved to foster human health and economic vitality through reliability of natural systems.

WHEREAS, Agriculture, forest, and range production practices are increasingly subject to state and federal regulations intended to protect air resources. However, these regulations were developed for non-agricultural entities and do not directly relate to living ecosystem that produce perishable commodities; and

WHEREAS, Data on agricultural emissions of regulated pollutants, odors and fugitive dust often either do not exist or are insufficient to inform the development of appropriate policy but regulatory deadlines are in place that must be met immediately; and

WHEREAS, Agricultural operations face significant regulatory challenges in permitting, enforcement, and compliance that if not implemented appropriately could threaten the economic viability of rural and agricultural communities and regional economies, and perhaps the overall production of food by the U.S. agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, There is a clear need for scientific research that addresses agricultural air quality problems and informs the development of appropriate policies thus preventing regulatory decisions being made without sound scientific data that could result in costly requirements that do not improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has taken several steps to respond to this need by the formation in 1997 of the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) and an air quality research program in the National Research Initiative explicitly focusing on agricultural air quality; and

WHEREAS, Despite these efforts there is still not a cohesive long-term plan for agricultural air quality research at the state or national level that can address the regulatory challenges the agricultural community must meet.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Food and Agriculture support the effort underway to create an Air Quality Agricultural Research (AQAR) long-term plan being facilitated by the California Air Resources Board, California Department of Food and Agriculture and the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District to coordinate agricultural air quality research projects through the same partnership of

public and private entities that has conducted the CRPAQS¹ particulate and CCOS² ozone studies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AQAR will develop a research guideline that considers needs identified by regulatory requirements and will consider topics identified by the USDA, AAQTF and other advisory, academic groups and stakeholders. It will also include a protocol for new research projects that will outline appropriate communication and coordination with research institutions, stakeholders and regulatory agencies. This process guideline will provide a framework for coordination and review of research projects to ensure effective use of resources and coordination with stakeholders and will include a general sampling protocol to guide new research projects to ensure consistency and reliability of results; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this process be formalized to ensure consistency from one administration to another in order to protect public, environmental health and the viability of our agricultural community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Food and Agriculture encourage that the template and process for the state's AQAR be adopted by USDA so that there is a cohesive national strategy for agricultural air quality research.

Subscribed
Helen Lopez, Executive Director

Approved April 26, 2006

¹ CRPAQS California Regional PM10/PM2.5 Air Quality Study

² CCOS Central California Ozone Study