

I recommend to the State Board of Food and Agriculture that California switch to no-till or conservation-tilling methods instead of traditional plowing. Continuous no-till is applicable to most crops, except wetland rice and root crops. The advantages of no-till are:

- Reduced erosion by wind and water
- Reduced run-off of sediment, fertilizers, and pesticides
- Sustainability
- More porous soils
- Increased water infiltration
- Greater diversity of soil flora and fauna like earthworms and micro-organisms
- Standing crop residues provide food and cover for more birds
- Increased carbon sequestration
- Economic advantages to farmers because of decreased number of passes over field establishing and harvesting crop using 50-80% less fuel and 30-50% less labor
- Saves farmer's time

Please read the article "No-Till: The Quiet Revolution" in the July 2008 issue of the "Scientific American" magazine.

I highly recommend adopting Roots of Change: 36 Goals for 2030.

Ban all agricultural burning. Air quality in the San Joaquin Valley is awful.

Crops should be irrigated in the most water efficient and energy efficient manner.

Rotate crops.

Grow crops with the absolute minimum of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides.

Provide buffers between all cattle and agriculture and riparian areas and wetlands.

Leave many scattered natural areas uncultivated. Protect or restore California native trees and plants in these wide hedgerows, riparian areas, and wetlands. These sanctuaries foster native California bees which pollinate crops, birds, and animals which use these natural areas for cover, foraging, and breeding.

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