

**AD-HOC MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE-
SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)**

Location: Zoom Webinar

Contact: Thea Rittenhouse, Farmer Equity Advisor

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NOTES FROM April 22, 2024 AD-HOC MEETING

Item No.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order at 12:04 by Committee Chair Justin Miller

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Veronica Mazariegos
Anna Nakamura-Knight
Beverly McKinney
Wendy Kornberg
Justin Miller
Lovepreet Kapur
Josefina Lara Chavez
Luis Elizondo
Patrick Mitchell

Absent:

Kerry McGrath
Luis Elizondo

3. Setting up subcommittee on non-climate related emergencies.

Committee suggested a more expansive definition of emergency for small-scale producers be adopted instead of calling it non-climate related. This can include emergencies that are not specifically only for wildfire, drought, or flood; including but not limited to pests, diseases, wind, hurricane, etc.

Committee member Wendy Kornberg- moved motion to form a subcommittee, motion seconded by Anna Knight. Motion passes. The SSPAC has formed one subcommittee on this topic.

4. Scope and deliverables of the subcommittee:

Committee members mentioned that when definitions are narrow in scope, it limits accessibility for small producers to programs, services, and resources.

Deliverables:

- Identify who the SSPAC need to make recommendations to within CDFA.

- Draft Example list of what constitutes an “emergency” for small-scale producers and what is needed to address challenges.
- Identify bills and legislation that are related to small-scale producers and provide a small-scale producer voice and recommendations.
- Identify appropriate amounts of funding for small-scale producers: not necessarily new funding but what is accessible and appropriately sized for small-scale producers.
- Develop a preemptive strategy and be prepared future scenarios rather than reacting to situations/scenarios as they arise.
- Develop a preemptive strategy for funding that will serve small-scale producers best.
- Include potential impacts of climate change, global unrest on small-scale producers.

5. SSPAC Sub Committee Members and Chair Nomination

Anna Knight: recommended Josefina Lara Chavez for chair, the recommendation was seconded by Wendy Kornberg. Vote passed. New Chair of the subcommittee is Josefina Lara Chavez

Subcommittee members nominated: Beverly McKinney, Patrick Mitchell, Anna Knight

Vote passes for Patrick Mitchell and Anna Knight to be members of the SSPAC subcommittee.

Subcommittee will meet independently and set up their first meeting in a date to be determined.

6. Public Comments:

Beverly McKinney- Please consider external factors such as world events that affect small-scale producers, especially those that increase the cost of farmers’ inputs.

Justin Miller- Although this subcommittee will work independently, it can also reach out to other pertinent bodies, such as the Invasive Species Advisory Committee and others to connect with.

7. Meeting adjourned 12:38