

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

Location: Zoom Webinar

Contact:

Josefina Lara Chavez- Subcommittee Chair

Thea Rittenhouse- Farmer Equity Advisor

E-mail: jlarchave@gmail.com

E-mail: thea.rittenhouse@cdfa.ca.gov

Phone: (916) 202-9415

MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2024

Present:

Carmen Carrasco
Anna Nakamura Knight
Josefina Lara Chavez – Subcommittee Chair
Patrick Miller

Item No.

1. Meeting called to order at 3:04 PM (Chair Josephina Lara Chavez)
2. Approval of minutes of July 23 Sub Committee Meeting
Motion by Anna Nakamura Knight
Seconded by Patrick Mitchell
Motion passes unanimously
3. CUSP Program Presentation- Thea Rittenhouse
Anna requested clarity on the program, how it works, efficacy etc.

Key points- CUSP Is intertwined with UCANR Small Farm Advisors

CUSP was recently refunded

Economic relief for Covid related hardships

Up to \$20,000

2 rounds of drought relief- direct grants

1 round of flood

Program lacks(ed) standardization

Responses, timing, practices

UCANR- documentation checklist verification

Would like to expand to fund results of other weather crises impacts

CUSP has 2 funds- Direct
Technical Assistance

Discussion:

Anna asked why money from Technical Assistance organization was not fully allocated?
New standardized applications will ensure all money goes out.

Anna stated all TA orgs allowed 25% overhead
Nearly all applicants received funding

Josephina- Capacity, willing to share info

Thea- New round of funding will need to solve competition among TA Orgs.

Anna- Early challenges of CUSP: "weather related" is too narrow
Confidentiality: personal data
Farm data

Josephina- Building relationships is individual not organizational

Anna- Farmers Market Managers, other distribution outlets

Thea- review new CUSP parameters

4. Review of Emergencies Definition
 - Members reviewed highlighted sections and initialed.
 - Discussed heat wave/hot day
 - Anna- Maybe we shouldn't define categories of crises.
 - SSPAC Subcommittee members review and comment
5. Next meeting scheduled for September 30, 2024

August 27 SSPAC Subcommittee Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM