



**ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL (EFA SAP)
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

MEETING AGENDA

**April 29, 2021
9 AM to 3 PM**

REMOTE ACCESS

Webinar information

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3876989463756254987>

Webinar ID 700-934-771

Presentation materials will be posted at the following link prior to the meeting:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/efasap/meetings_presentations.html

Topic	Presenter	Action Level
1. Chair and Member Introductions	Chair Dlott	Informational Item
		Action Item
2. Minutes	Chair Dlott	Requires EFA SAP Approval

Invited Panelist

Kate Scow, PhD. UC Davis

3. Expert Scientific Panel on Developing a Below-ground Biodiversity Metric

Margaret Smither-Kopperl, Ph.D.
USDA-NRCS Lockeford Plant
Materials Center

Informational Item

Howard Ferris, PhD. UC Davis

Attempt to understand if there is adequate scientific information to establish a below-ground biodiversity metric. An expert panel of scientists will provide insight to the Science Panel Members and public. This effort is part of a larger statewide effort to recognize and enhance biodiversity efforts in California.

The meeting complies with Bagley Keene requirements and the Governors Executive Orders on Covid-19 which allows for remote participation and voting at public meetings.

Questions regarding this public meeting can be directed to Dr. Amrith Gunasekara at (916) 654-0433 or CDFA.OEFl@cdfa.ca.gov
More information at: <http://cdfa.ca.gov/Meetings.html> and http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/Meetings_Presentations.html

Invited Panelist

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| 4. Expert Scientific Panel on Developing an Above-ground Biodiversity Metric | Jesse Kay Cruz, Xerces Society
Elizabeth Porzig, Point Blue
Lora Morandin, Pollinator Partnership Canada | Information Item |
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Attempt to understand if there is adequate scientific information to establish an above-ground biodiversity metric. An expert panel of scientists will provide insight to the Science Panel Members and public. This effort is part of a larger statewide effort to recognize and enhance biodiversity efforts in California.

Action Item

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| 5. Draft Request for Proposals for the Climate Smart Agriculture Planning Program | CDFA Staff | Requires EFA SAP Approval to Move Planning Program Draft Request for Proposals for 30-day Public Comment |
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The Science Panel, at the request of several stakeholders in the California agricultural community in 2020, has in a pervious public meeting moved a motion to develop and incentive program under the CDFA Climate Smart Agriculture umbrella to incentivize on-farm planning. On-farm plans are beneficial for climate change and environmental mitigation and adaptation efforts. For this agenda item, plans are defined as a comprehensive document that sets forth goals and recommends strategies to achieve them. This agenda item involved CDFA staff presenting to the Science Panel a proposed Draft Request for Proposals which will then be available for 30-day public comment following the Science Panel meeting. Any future funding to any Climate Smart Agriculture program in the Office of Environmental Farming Innovation will then also fund the Planning Program.

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| 6. State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) | SWEET Team, CDFA

Austin McInerny, Consensus and Collaboration Program
CSU, Sacramento

Members of the Ad Hoc Sub-Advisory Group | Information Item |
|---|---|------------------|
- SWEET Ad Hoc Sub-Advisory Group Update and Summary Report
 - Questions from EFA SAP members for Facilitator and SWEET Team
 - Comments to EFA SAP members from Ad Hoc Sub-Advisory Group members

The Science Panel, in response to stakeholder requests in 2020, formed an Ad Hoc Sub-Advisory Group to develop recommendations around several questions to evaluate the SWEET program and determine how the program can be improved further to provide efficient irrigation services to farmers to mitigate and adapt to climate

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change impacts. The 41 member Ad Hoc Sub-Advisory Group has met January through March 2021 and developed a report. A summary of that report will be presented to the Science Panel members for Agenda Item 6 by the CDFA SWEEP Team. The CDFA SWEEP Team will be moving the report for a 30-day public comment period following the meeting for further public input. A brief update on the SWEEP program will also be provided as part of this agenda item.

7. Healthy Soils Program (HSP)	Healthy Soils Team, CDFA	Informational Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Updates 		

8. Technical Assistance Program	Technical Assistance Team, CDFA	Informational Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Updates 		

9. Public Comments	Chair Dlott	Informational Item
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10. Next Meeting	Chair Dlott	Informational Item
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EFA SAP MEMBERSHIP

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/efasap/>

- Jeff Dlott, PhD, SureHarvest, Member and Chairperson
- Vicky Dawley, Tehama RCD, Member and Vice Chairperson
- Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Member
- Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm, Member
- Leonard Diggs, Pie Ranch, Member
- Keali'i Bright, California Department of Conservation, Member
- Amanda Hansen, California Natural Resources Agency, Member
- Scott Couch, State Water Resources Control Board, CalEPA, Member
- Michelle Buffington, PhD, California Air Resources Board, CalEPA, Member
- Greg Norris, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, Subject Matter Expert
- Doug Parker, PhD, Subject Matter Expert

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