



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

MEETING AGENDA

**July 15, 2021
9 AM to 3 PM**

REMOTE ACCESS

Webinar information

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5499186931465456396>

Webinar ID 564-383-699

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

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/Meetings_Presentations.html

Topic	Presenter	Action Level
1. Chair and Member Introductions	Chair Dlott	Informational Item
2. Welcome remarks	Secretary Karen Ross, CDFA	Informational Item
3. Minutes	Chair Dlott	Action Item Requires EFA SAP Approval
4. Discussion on developing a Below-ground Biodiversity Metric	Chair Dlott	Action Item Requires EFA SAP Approval

At the last EFA SAP meeting, CDFA organized a scientific panel on below ground biodiversity metrics. The invited panel members included Kate Scow, PhD, and Howard Ferris, PhD, from the University of California Davis and Margaret Smither-Kopperl, PhD, from the USDA-NRCS Lockeford Plant Materials Center. This agenda item will continue the discussion on how to work towards establishing a below-ground biodiversity metric in agricultural systems in California. CDFA staff recommends the establishment of an EFA SAP Ad-Hoc Advisory Group co-chaired by the three panel members to further evaluate a below ground biodiversity metric. The product of this Ad-Hoc Advisory Group would be a report on what a or several below ground metrics may be based on the current best available science.

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 Amrith Gunasekara, PhD, at (916) 654-0433 or CDFA.OEFL@cdfa.ca.gov
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| 5. Restore CA; Update on current and future activities | Anthony Myint
Director of Partnerships | Informational Item |
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Restore CA recently awarded \$325,000 in grants to 18 projects across the state which is expected to remove 7000 tons of carbon from the atmosphere in collaboration with regional RCDs and UCANR staff. An update on past and future activities will be presented by Mr. Myint.

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| 6. Climate Smart Agriculture Conservation Agriculture Planning Program; Update on current and future activities | CDFA Staff | Informational Item |
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The Conservation Agriculture Planning Program is a new program under CDFA Climate Smart Agriculture portfolio and allows for planning grants so agricultural operations in California can plan for climate change mitigation and adaption activities. A draft Request for Proposals for the Climate Smart Agricultural Conservation Agriculture Planning Program was released for public comment on 5/13/2021 through 6/15/2021 following the last EFA SAP meeting. Public comments have been collected and evaluated. In this agenda item, the CDFA team will present the findings from the public comments. Public comment letters will be posted online as well. Any future funding to any Climate Smart Agriculture program in the Office of Environmental Farming Innovation will also fund the Conservation Agriculture Planning Program.

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| 7. State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP); Update on Ad Hoc Sub-Advisory Group and Public Comments | SWEEP Team, CDFA | Informational Item |
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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 SWEEP program and determine how the program can be improved further to provide efficient irrigation services to farmers to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. A summary of that report was presented to the Science Panel members at the last meeting by the CDFA SWEEP Team. The report was released for public comment on 5/17/2021 through 6/16/2021 for public comment. The CDFA SWEEP Team is in the process of evaluating how to integrate them into the program. The next SWEEP Request for Proposals will be released for public comment and will include some of the recommendations from the report. Public comment letters received as part of this effort are now available online.

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| 8. Healthy Soils Program (HSP); Program Updates | Healthy Soils Team, CDFA | Informational Item |
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An update on the Healthy Soils Program will be provided.

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9. Technical Assistance Program; Program Updates	Technical Assistance Team, CDFA	Informational Item
An update on the Technical Assistance Program will be provided.		
10. Public Comments	Chair Dlott	Informational Item
11. Next Meeting	Chair Dlott	Informational Item

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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