

California Department of Food and Agriculture
ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL

MEETING AGENDA

July 2, 2014
10 AM to 4 PM

Room 133
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-654-0433

Call in information:
Please call 1-877-238-3859
Participant passcode - 3964856#

Don Cameron, Member and Chair

Mark Nechodom, PhD, Member

Jocelyn Gretz, MSc, Member

Mike Tollstrup, Member

Jeff Dlott, PhD, Member

Luana Kiger, MSc, Subject Matter Expert

Doug Parker, PhD, Subject Matter Expert

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Introductions and updates | Don and Amrith |
| • Minutes from previous meetings | |
| • Bylaws | |
| • State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program | |
| • GEELA | |
| • Environmental Goals and Policy Report | |
| 2. Future Direction | Amrith |
| • Permits | |
| 3. Public comment | Don |
| 4. Next meeting and adjournment | Don |

Amrith Gunasekara, PhD, CDFG Liaison to the Science Panel

All meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation as defined by the American with Disabilities Act, or if you have questions regarding this public meeting, please contact Amrith Gunasekara at (916) 654-0433. More information at: <http://cdfa.ca.gov/Meetings.html> and http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/Meetings_Presentations.html

PROCEDURES FOR THE CANNELLA ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL

The following will guide the activities of the Cannella Environmental Farming Act Scientific Advisory Panel, created under the Food and Agricultural Code, Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 8.5, Sections 560-568.

PANEL STRUCTURE

1.1 Membership

As provided by Section 568, the Panel shall: 1) consist of five members, 2) three members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, at least one of these members shall have a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of agriculture and shall represent production agriculture; one member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency with a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of human health or environmental science; one member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Resource Agency with a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of resource management; and 3) be highly qualified and professionally active or engaged in the conduct of scientific research.

1.2 Terms

Of the members first appointed to the Panel, two shall serve for a term of two years and three shall serve for a term of three years, as determined by lot. Thereafter, members shall be appointed for a term of three years. Any variances which occur shall be filled for the remaining unexpired term.

1.3 Vacancies

Any vacancy that occurs during an unexpired term shall be filled by the appointing agency for the remainder of the unexpired term, in accordance with the requirements set for in section 1.1.

1.4 Officers

The permanent officers of the Committee shall be: Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The Committee may from time to time create additional officers with such titles and duties as it may assign.

1.5 Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Committee, and shall serve as the principal spokesperson for the Committee during meetings. **The Chairperson will be appointed by the Secretary from the Committee's voting members every three years.**

1.6 Vice Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

1.7 Election of Panel Officers

Panel officers shall be elected for a term of two or three years as specified in section 1.2, commencing with the October 2011 meeting. An office may be held for two consecutive terms, but not more than two consecutive terms.

1.8 Ad Hoc Committees

As defined in Section 568 (c), the panel may establish ad hoc committees, which may include professionals or scientists, to assist it in performing its functions.

II. AD HOC COMMITTEES

2.1 Membership

The Panel may establish ad hoc committees, which may include professionals or scientists, to assist it in performing its functions, and Panel members. The Chairperson and membership of these committees shall be determined by the Panel Chairperson or Panel.

2.2 A quorum for the conduct of ad hoc committee business shall be a majority of the members, plus one. A majority of the quorum shall be entitled to adopt recommendations constituting committee action.

Once a quorum has been established and a meeting has commenced, a committee may continue to meet and take action even if, as a result of early retirement of some members, less than a quorum of the subcommittee are in attendance.

2.3 Minutes

Ad Hoc Committees shall keep meeting minutes and shall make approved minutes available to the public in a timely manner.

III. PANEL MEETINGS

3.1 Meetings

Meetings of the Panel shall be scheduled as needed and shall be noticed according to the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Government Code Sections 11120 et seq.). A copy of the Bagley-Keene Act shall be provided to each Committee member.

3.2 Notice of Meetings

Written notice of all meetings shall be sent to all interested persons entitled to notice under the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

3.3 Public Meetings

All meetings of the Panel shall be open to the public and in other respects shall conform to requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

3.4 Panel Action

A quorum for the conduct of Panel business shall be a majority of Panel members plus one [four of the five-member Panel].

- 3.5 Place of Meetings
Meetings shall be held as specified in the official meeting notice.
- 3.6 Minutes
The Panel shall keep meeting minutes and shall make approved minutes available to the public in a timely manner.

IV. PANEL COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 Public Communications
The Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture shall be spokesperson for the Panel other than when committee is in session. The Science Advisor to the Secretary will be responsible for responding to questions from the media or from the public.
- 4.2 Communications with the Department
While any Panel member may communicate with the Department, official communications from the Panel shall be sent by the Science Advisor.
- 4.3 Communication to Panel Members
In recognition of the Panel's broad responsibilities, each member of the Panel shall have the responsibility to maintain lines of communication with his/her appointing agency.
- 4.4 Reports to Committee from Department
The Department will furnish the Panel with information and reports reasonably necessary to allow the Panel to perform its advisory role.

V. FUNCTION OF THE PANEL

- 5.1 Enumeration of Functions
The Panel shall perform to the best of its ability the advisory functions on all matters pertaining to Chapter 3 of Division 1 including making recommendations regarding incentives for the private sector to undertake economic activities that benefit the environment.

VI. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

- 6.1 The members of the Panel shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred attending meetings approved by the department.

News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Media Contacts:

Steve Lyle, CDFA Public Affairs, (916) 654-0462

CDFA ANNOUNCES AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



Release #14-023

[Print This Release](#)

Agricultural operators are encouraged to apply for funding of projects involving improved water savings and energy reductions in irrigation systems

SACRAMENTO, June 16, 2014 - The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is now accepting applications for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET), authorized by emergency drought legislation (Senate Bill 103). An estimated \$10 million in competitive grant funding will be awarded to provide financial assistance to agricultural operations for implementation of water conservation measures that result in increased water efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

"Water conservation is essential as we work our way through this drought and prepare ourselves for future challenges," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "We are pleased to offer this grant program for innovative, effective projects."

Applicants must access the [Application Guidelines](#) for detailed information and program requirements. To streamline and expedite the application process, CDFA is partnering with the State Water Resources Control Board, which hosts an online application using the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST). All applicants must register for a FAAST account at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>.

Applications must be submitted electronically using FAAST by Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. PST.

CDFA will hold application workshops and one webinar to provide information on program requirements and the FAAST application process (see below). There is no cost to attend the workshops or webinar. Space is limited at each workshop location. Individuals planning to attend should email grants@cdfa.ca.gov with their contact information, number of seats required and workshop location. Upon confirmation of registration further details will be provided.

Modesto - June 18, 2014

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center

Harvest Hall, Room G

3800 Cornucopia Way

Modesto, CA 95358

Salinas - June 19, 2014

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Monterey County Agricultural Center
1428 Abbott St.
Salinas, CA 93901

Ventura - June 25, 2014

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
County of Ventura UC Cooperative Extension
669 County Square Dr.
California Conference Rooms A & B
Ventura, CA 93003

Tulare - June 26, 2014

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Auditorium
4437 S Laspina
Tulare, CA 93274

Oroville - June 30, 2014

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Butte County Farm Bureau
2580 Feather River Blvd.
Oroville CA 95965

Webinar - July 8, 2014

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Webinar Information will be provided upon registration

Prospective applicants may contact CDFA's Grants Office at grants@cdfa.ca.gov with general program questions.

Governor Brown has called on all Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent and prevent water waste - visit SaveOurH2O.org to find out how everyone can do their part, and visit Drought.CA.Gov to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought.

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State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) built on collaborative partnerships

Posted on June 30, 2014 by Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, CDFA Science Advisor



CDFA continues to accept applications for the [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program](#), or SWEEP. The deadline to apply is July 15, 2014.

The program is designed to provide financial assistance to agricultural operations for the implementation of water conservation measures that increase water efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately \$10 million has been made available for SWEEP through emergency drought legislation (Senate Bill 103).

Although CDFA is leading this effort, the development, implementation and success of this program is dependent on collaborative efforts across state and federal agencies and with multiple partners. CDFA is working closely with the State Water Board and Department of Water Resources on several aspects of the program, including program design and the collection of applications through the State Water Board's electronic application program, the [Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool](#) (FAAST).

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Natural Resources Conservation Services](#) (NRCS) and the [CDFA Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel](#) have been valuable assets by providing guidance and feedback on many aspects of program design.

SWEEP requires a high level of technical expertise to review the applications. Irrigation experts from the [Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center](#), the [Center for Irrigation Technology](#) at Fresno State and the University of California's [Cooperative Extension](#) are partnering with CDFA to provide application technical review and recommendations for funding.

Verifying that projects are implemented at the farm level is a critical part of SWEEP. To achieve that, CDFA is partnering with the [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#), which regularly works with farmers and has conservation practice experience on irrigation systems.

SWEEP was implemented under the 1995 Environmental Farming Act, which recognizes that many farmers engage in practices that contribute to the well-being of ecosystems, air quality and wildlife, and states that CDFA shall provide incentives for those practices.

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News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Media Contacts:

Steve Lyle, CDFA Public Affairs, (916) 654-0462

KEY AGRICULTURE COMPONENT ADDED TO GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP AWARDS



Release #14-021

[Print This Release](#)

Ecosystem services to be recognized for first time

SACRAMENTO, June 4, 2014 - For the first time in the history of the Governor's Economic and Leadership Awards (GEELA), the category of Agricultural Ecosystem Services has been added for statewide recognition by the California Environmental Protection Agency. The new category will spotlight the multiple benefits gained from farming and ranching, including innovative and sustainable approaches to water and energy conservation, food crop production efficiency, and management of working lands.

GEELA honors individuals, organizations and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and achievements in conservation, environmental protection, public-private partnerships, and strengthening the state's economy. Applications are due Friday, July 11, 2014 and may be obtained at www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA/.

"Ecosystem services are an essential element in farming and ranching," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "They include waterfowl habitat in rice fields, pollinator support on farms, and the resolute commitment to conservation demonstrated throughout agriculture. I urge our farmers and ranchers to strongly consider this new category."

More information about ecosystem services may be found at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/EcosystemServices.html>

Established in 1993, GEELA is administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the Natural Resources Agency; the Department of Food and Agriculture; the State Transportation Agency; the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency; the Labor and Workforce Development Agency; the Health and Human Services Agency; and the Governor's Office.

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Agriculture recognized by Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards

Posted on July 1, 2014 by Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, CDFA Science Advisor



What do Joseph Gallo Farms, Gills Onions and Parducci Wine Cellars have in common? Yes, they *are* all California farms with well-known, high-quality products, but they have something else in common. They are all past winners of a [Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award](#) (GEELA), the state's highest environmental honor.

This year, for the first time, GEELA has an agricultural category titled "Agricultural Ecosystem Services". This category was designed for farmers and ranchers that demonstrate innovative and sustainable approaches to water conservation, efficiency and protection of working ecosystems.

CDFA has defined Ecosystem Services in agriculture as "the multiple benefits we gain from farming and ranching including crop and livestock production. In addition to valuable open space and wildlife habitat, the management decisions and conservation practices of farmers and ranchers also enhance environmental quality, provide recreational opportunities and offer social benefits."

CDFA recognizes there are many farmers and ranchers doing a lot on water conservation, especially in consideration of the drought.

In less than two weeks, the current application process will close for GEELA. **Applications will be accepted through July 11, 2014.** We hope farmers and ranchers will consider applying. [Click here to apply.](#)

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