

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

MEETING AGENDA
October 15, 2020
9 AM to 3 PM
California Department of Food and Agriculture

REMOTE ACCESS

Webinar information

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/746745825067944459>

Webinar ID 818-641-083

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. Introductions	Chair Dlott	Informational Item
		Action Item
2. Minutes	Chair Dlott	Requires EFA SAP Approval
3. Stakeholder proposal to add an Organic Transition Plan to the Healthy Soils Program (HSP)		Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on potential options to include program in HSP • Invited Panel Discussion on Organic Transition Plans 	HSP team, CDFA	Requires EFA SAP Input
		Action Item
4. Establishment of a SWEEP Ad Hoc Advisory Group	Amrith Gunasekara, PhD, CDFA	Requires EFA SAP Approval
5. Healthy Soils Initiative Partnership Efforts	Arima Kozina, CDFA	Informational Item
6. Healthy Soils Week	Joyce Mansfield, CDFA	Informational Item
7. State Water Efficiency and Enhancement (SWEEP)		Informational Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Updates 	SWEEP Team, CDFA	
8. Healthy Soils Program (HSP)		Informational Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program updates 	Healthy Soils Team, CDFA	

9. Technical Assistance Program	Steph Jamis, MSc, CDFA	Informational Item
• Program Updates		
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, Chair and Member

Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Member

Vicky Dawley, Tehama RCD, 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

CDFA Liaison to the Science Panel - Amrith (Ami) Gunasekara, PhD

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.OEFI@cdfa.ca.gov

More information at: <http://cdfa.ca.gov/Meetings.html> and

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

Agenda Item 2

Minutes from July 16, 2020

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

California Department of Food and Agriculture Auditorium
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**July 16, 2020
9 AM to 3 PM**

Remote Access

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

MEETING MINUTES

Panel Member in Attendance

Vacant (Chair and Member)

Jeff Dlott, SureHarvest (Interim Chair and Member)

Vicky Dawley, Tehama RCD (Member)

Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm (Member)

Michelle Buffington, PhD. CalEPA, ARB (Member)

Scott Couch, CalEPA, State Water Board, (Member)

Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch (Member)

Amanda Hansen, Natural Resources Agency (Member)

Leonard Diggs, Pie Ranch (Member)

Keali'i Bright, PhD, Assistant Director, DOC, Natural Resources Agency (Member)

Thomas Hedt, USDA NRCS (Subject Matter Expert)

Doug Parker, PhD. UC ANR (Subject Matter Expert)

State Agency Staff and Presenters

Carolyn Cook, MSc, CDFA

Scott Weeks, CDFA

Arima Kozina, CDFA

Geetika Joshi, PhD, CDFA

Amrith Gunasekara, PhD, CDFA

AGENDA ITEMS 1 and 2 – Welcome Remarks and Introduction of New EFA SAP members

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Interim Chair Dlott. Dr. Dlott welcomed the panel members and introduced two new panel members appointed by Secretary Ross from CDFA and Secretary Crowfoot from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). The new members were Mr. Leonard Diggs from Pie Ranch and Ms. Amanda Hansen, Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, from CNRA. Panel members introduced themselves. Present at the meeting were all the members noted above under "Panel Members in Attendance." A quorum of at least six members was present at the meeting.

The meeting was conducted remotely, and members were able to call in and vote on action items in compliance with a recent Executive Order signed by Governor Newsom which allowed for remote attendance and additional flexibility in fulfilling Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Selection of Chair

Interim Chair Dlott reviewed the process for selecting a candidate for the vacant EFA SAP Chair position. He referenced the bylaws which describe the duties of the Chair position and welcomed motions from the members. Member Cameron nominated Interim Chair Dlott for the role of Chair position. Member Couch seconded the motion. All members unanimously voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Dlott will be Chair of the EFA SAP and will serve a three-year term. He expressed his pleasure and gratitude for the opportunity to serve in this position.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Minutes from January 21, 2020 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2020 meeting was introduced by Member Dawley and seconded by Member Couch. Members Diggs and Hansen abstained from voting since they were new members and not present at the January meeting. All other members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Stakeholder proposal to add an Organic Transition Plan to the Healthy Soils Program (HSP)

Interim Chair Dlott introduced the agenda item and noted that input is required further upon a presentation by CDFA. He noted that it was up to EFA SAP members to decide if they would like to vote today to move the action item or invite further written public comment following the meeting and vote to move the agenda item further at the next meeting.

The introductory comments were followed by a CDFA staff presentation. CDFA staff provided an overview of the proposal and identified several concerns about adding Organic Transition Plans to the Healthy Soils Program. Concerns include that the development of an organic transition plan does not have quantifiable greenhouse gas reductions and the proposed one-time payment for the plans can lead to reduced funds available for farmers and ranchers to implement HSP practices, setting precedent to cover planning costs which has not been done in CDFA's incentive programs. Other proposals related to plan development may be made in the future. Planning costs are expensive and will significantly reduce funds going to practices that are implemented by farmers and ranchers. Given this limitation, staff considered how CDFA can accommodate the request to include the organic transition plan and presented three options. Option 1) Include Organic Transition Plans as an allowable plan under the Conservation Plan category in the scoring criteria which provides up to 10 points out of 60 points total; Option 2) Include Organic Transition Plans as a dedicated plan which will be eligible for up to 10 points out of 70 points total. In both options 1 and 2, the Organic Transition Plan would not be funded through HSP, but its existence would provide the applicant with additional points awarded during technical review. Option 3) Consider the proposal to fund Organic Transition Plans through the CDFA Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Program. CDFA HSP staff recommended Options 1 and 2.

EFA SAP members posed several questions regarding the original proposal and the options proposed by CDFA. Can the awardee use of 25% advance payment towards the development of the plan? If a full or partial plan is required to apply to HSP, how would the options impact how Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers receive funding? What plans fit under the current conservation plan category included in HSP Request for Proposal (RFP)? Does the current HSP timeline allow for the verification of the Organic Transition Plan? Have other planning proposals been submitted? Can the payment for the plan can be lowered to \$2,000 from \$4,300 proposed? CDFA staff responded to the questions.

Interim Chair Dlott facilitated public comments following the discussion. A motion was made to

move the vote regarding the agenda item to a future meeting. Further,

- A written public comment period will be established prior to the next meeting.
- CDFA staff will evaluate Option 3 of the recommendations around the following topics:
 - Accountability – Assessing climate benefits and how these plans will be implemented
 - Payments – If payments can be staggered and a lower payment amount used with cost-share
 - Process – Ability to sub-contract with Technical Assistance Providers to reach farmers as part of the CDFA Technical Assistance Program
 - Timeline – Timelines and issues related to development of a plan and submittal, development of a plan and implementation, how the plans may fit into program timelines
- Establish a panel of experts on the plans for the next EFA SAP meeting to better understand the development, submission and certification of the plans.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Stakeholder proposal to establish a SWEEP advisory subcommittee
Interim Chair Dlott introduced this action item. He provided the background that a stakeholder letter was submitted to CDFA requesting establishment of a Stakeholder Advisory Group to discuss important issues related to SWEEP.

Dr. Gunasekara proposed a process to establish an advisory group with an open solicitation announced through a CDFA news release. From the applications received, EFA SAP members could select members for the advisory group at the next meeting in October. He also fielded questions from EFA SAP members.

Questions from members included whether state agency staff will be allowed in the advisory group, the process for selecting members of the advisory group once applications are received, should there be specific expertise for the advisory group members, if a subcommittee is needed for these activities, if CDFA staff will support the meeting activities of the advisory committee, if the meetings will be open to the public and need to comply with Bagley-Keene requirements, if the meetings can be held virtually, and if EFA SAP members can be on the stakeholder advisory group.

Public comments were facilitated by Interim Chair Dlott. Following public comment, a motion was made by Member Hansen to move forward with the staff recommendation to establish an EFA SAP subcommittee on SWEEP. Member Couch seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members present.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Updates

Mr. Weeks, Environmental Scientist with CDFA's SWEEP, provided an update on program outcomes from the latest solicitation. He also fielded several questions from the panel members.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Healthy Soils Program Updates and New Practices Solicitation Update

Dr. Joshi provided an update on the Healthy Soils Program and provided statistics on the most recent solicitation. She described the change to the solicitation of rolling review and awarding on a first-come, first-serve basis. \$22.2 million has been awarded to 319 projects. She fielded questions by the EFA SAP members.

Dr. Joshi also reviewed the process for submitting new practice proposals. OEFI is currently accepting proposals through August 28, 2020. New practice proposals must meet certain

requirements such as no proprietary products, submission of peer-reviewed literature including data on environmental impacts and data on co-benefits. CDFA will work with a technical advisory group to evaluate the proposals. Recommendations of the submitted new practices will be brought to the panel for further consideration after technical review.

Ms. Arima Kozima with CDFA provided an update on the Healthy Soils Initiative and upcoming workshops on partnerships opportunities in collaboration with the California Air Resources Board. Three workshops for investments and scaling up of practices are planned. Ms. Kozima then fielded questions from the members.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – Technical Assistance Program Updates

Ms. Cook provided an update on the Technical Assistance Program and fielded questions from the EFA SAP members.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – Public Comments

Interim Chair Dlott facilitated public comments.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – Next meeting and Location

Interim Chair Dlott announced that the next meeting will be held on October 15, 2020 and will have remote attendance. Dr. Gunasekara requested if the meeting could be made fully online without the walk-in option offered at this meeting since there was no in-person attendees at this meeting by members of the public. This effort will help manage Covid-19 concerns. The EFA SAP members unanimously agreed to support a remote attendance meeting only for the October meeting.

Member Couch introduced the motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Member Dawley. Panel members unanimously voted to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amrith Gunasekara, Ph.D.
Liaison to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel

Agenda Item 3

Organic Transition Plan to the Healthy
Soils Program (HSP)

LETTER TO CDFA BY CCOF:
ADDITION OF AN ORGANIC TRANSITION
OPTION TO THE HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

FOLLOW UP FROM JULY 16, 2020 EFA SAP
MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2020
EFA SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- January 16, 2020 - CCOF presents proposal to the EFA SAP at the public meeting held in Sacramento, CA
 - Panel style presentation
 - Information included a proposal for an Organic Transition Option in the CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP)
- January 16, 2020 - EFA SAP members moved motion for CDFA HSP team to evaluate proposal prior to next EFA SAP meeting in April 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19 shelter-in-place order)
- July 16, 2020 – CDFA HSP team presented staff analysis and recommendations
 - Three options. EFA SAP requested further evaluation of Option 3 (inclusion under the Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Program)
 - Public comments accepted from August 3, 2020 to August 31, 2020
- October 15, 2020 – Will present analysis for Option 3 and share public comments received

ASK

- Add an “Organic Transition Option to CDFA’s Healthy Soils Program”
- One-time payment of \$4,300 for:
 - Hiring Organic Crop Consultant
 - Developing an Organic System Plan
- Proposal letter is part of EFA SAP binder posted at:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/efasap/meetings_presentations.html

OPTIONS TO ACCOMMODATE – OPTION 3

Option 3. Add planning costs to the Technical Assistance (TA) Grants

- **Pros**

- Will allow for grantees to subcontract these costs further to appropriate professionals
- Itemized Budget worksheets for TA grants can accommodate these costs
- TAP budgets would reflect how many “plans” are going to be undertaken and cost, providing accountability for CDFA and verification options
- TA providers, with their engagement and interface with farmers and ranchers, would serve as a resource for CDFA to learn about existing interest in organic transition plans

- **Cons**

- May need to consider increasing TA grants to accommodate additional work.
 - Currently at \$20,000 per climate smart agriculture program
- Funds diverted from direct grants to farmers and ranchers to implement GHG practices
 - At the suggested cost of \$4,300, as few as 5 Organic Transition Plans exceed the total TA grant amount.
 - CDFA able to track the plan but not its implementation given grant timeframes

QUESTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

- Accountability – Assessing climate benefits and how these plans will be implemented
- Payments – If payments can be staggered and a lower payment amount considered with cost-share
- Process –Ability for CDFA-funded Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) to sub-contract further
- Timeline – Timelines and potential challenges in development of a plan and submittal, implementation of the plan, and, how the plan may fit into Program timelines

ACCOUNTABILITY

Assessing climate benefits and how these plans will be implemented

- Assessing climate benefits
 - Plans executed → practices implemented → GHG reductions → climate benefits
 - Questions:
 - Does the plan exclusively include HSP practices where it is possible to estimate GHG reductions?
 - If plans are not implemented → no climate benefits
- How these plans will be implemented
 - Implemented by farmer/rancher over a three-year period
 - Government accountability is supported by verification component
 - More information from Invited Panelists today

PAYMENTS

If payments can be staggered and a lower payment amount used with cost-share

- Payments
 - Payments can be staggered
 - For discussion: how can payments be staggered to align with the process of preparing a plan?
 - For example: HSP withholds 10% of total grant amount or Year 3 practice implementation costs until project is verified in Year 3.
 - Will such rules apply to cost associated with planning?
 - 10% withheld until plan is approved; or until plan is implemented?
 - Lower payments can be accommodated
 - Previous discussion to reduce payment to \$2,000 from \$4,300
 - Would remainder cost be covered by cost-share/matching funds from applicant?

PROCESS

Ability for CDFA-funded Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) to sub-contract further

- Process
 - Technical Assistance Providers can subcontract further with other to reach farmers is a process CDFA already allows

TIMELINE

Timelines and potential challenges in development of a plan and submittal, implementation of the plan, and how the plan may fit into Program timelines

- What are the steps and challenges in the process of development and submittal of an Organic Transition Plan?
 - More information from Invited Panelists today
- Implementation of the plan and how it may fit into Program
 - Timelines may not align with legislative and/or CDFA programmatic timelines, growing seasons

TIMELINE COMPARISON

Tentative Dates	July, 2021	Sep, 2021	Nov, 2021	Dec, 2021-Jan, 2022	Feb, 2022		July, 2022		Nov, 2022				July, 2023						July, 2024			March, 2025		June, 2025
Legislative Timeline	Encumbrance Year 1						Encumbrance Year 2						Liquidation Year 1						Liquidation Year 2				Closeout Period	
CSA TA Program	Public Comments	Application Period	Review	Award Announced and Grant Agreements Executed, TAP training	TAPs Conduct Pre-awrd Activities				TAPs Conduct Post-award Activities															
HSP	Public Comments				Application Period + Review (Rolling Process)		Grant Agreement Execution		Project Year 1 (8 months)				Project Year 2 (12 months)				Project Year 3 (9 months)							
Proposed timeline for Organic Transition Plan					Planning work by TAPs (HSP award decision not guaranteed)				Implementation by HSP Recipient (TAPs may help) If Organic Transition Planning starts after HSP award made, time of preparing plan coincides with time of Project Implementation. No ability to verify after HSP grant agreement term ends.															

Question: Time taken to prepare, submit and get approval on an Organic Transition Plan?

More information provided by Invited Panelists today

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED BETWEEN AUGUST 3 – 31, 2020

- 7 letters submitted, 62 signatories.
- Comment Letter Highlights
 - California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)
 - HSP should support organic transition, which can result in long-term adoption of HSP practices.
 - Funds should be provided to farmers directly rather than TAPs to allow freedom of choosing relevant experts to the farmers.
 - The three-year period of the Healthy Soils Incentive grant would coincide with the required three-year organic transition period.
 - This option will help farmers negotiate the steep learning curve of organic production; and provide support to beginning/resource-limited farmers to consider going organic.
 - The EQIP Organic Initiative Self-Certification Worksheet can be modified for accountability measures.
 - Stipend can be reduced by 50%.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED BETWEEN AUGUST 3 – 31, 2020

- Comment Letter Highlights:
 - California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF)
 - Do not support funding for transition plans because that would subsidize the development of a plan rather than actual practices that build soil health, sequester carbon, and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Planning alone does demonstrate implementation of practices or guarantee that a farmer will fully transition and commit to organic production.
 - This option diverts funds away from farmers when funds have already been diverted to Demonstration Projects and Technical Assistance toward organizations rather than individual farmers and ranchers.
 - CDFA and EFA-SAP should consider creating a Climate Smart Farm Planning Program that may establish a framework for existing and future planning protocols to meet the challenges of climate change, including organic transition, and also other plans that help manage resource forecasting, crop selection, income diversification, or emergency management for more frequent bouts of wildfire, flooding or drought.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED BETWEEN AUGUST 3 – 31, 2020

- Other key points made in additional letters:
 - Support for organic transition option.
 - Support for farmers who wish to go with Patagonia Regenerative Organic Certification.
 - Include other plans/options that help achieve HSP objectives, e.g. Xerces Society's Bee Better Certified Program.

From: Shannon <morris.sk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:19 AM
To: CDFA OEFI@CDFA <CDFA.OEFI@cdfa.ca.gov>
Subject: Healthy soils organic transition option

CAUTION : [External Email] - This email originated from outside of our CDFA organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is expected and is safe.

Good morning-

I am writing in support of including an organic transition option within the Healthy Soils Program. It makes sense to have an organic option within the Healthy Soils Program since building soil organic matter is an essential part of organic farming. Having this option will greatly help farmers transitioning, as the transition period can be economically challenging. Any programs to help in this process goes a long way.

Additionally, having an organic option will only strengthen the effects of the Healthy Soils Program because organic farmers will continue these practices, continue building soil organic matter, continue sequestering carbon.

I strongly urge you to add an organic option to the Healthy Soils Program to widen the impact the program has for farmers and for California in general.

Best,

Shannon Morris
Santa Cruz, CA

From: Vineeta Gupta <vineeta123@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:09 AM
To: CDFA OEFI@CDFA <CDFA.OEFI@cdfa.ca.gov>
Subject: Healthy Soils Program, Organic Transition, Pls support

CAUTION : [External Email] - This email originated from outside of our CDFA organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is expected and is safe.


- The Healthy Soils Program needs to include an organic transition option because organic farming sequesters carbon and helps mitigate climate change in addition to numerous other environmental and economic benefits.
- Transitioning to organic is challenging and a little bit of support will go a long way to helping more farmers and ranchers become organic.
- I would like to see more organic acreage in California to reduce use of toxic pesticides, soil health, farm worker health, insect wildlife health.

Thanks,
Vineeta Gupta

From: Cody Harrison <charrison@corona-enterprises.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:45 PM
To: CDFA OEFI@CDFA <CDFA.OEFI@cdfa.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [New post] Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option Moves Forward: Comment Now

CAUTION : [External Email] - This email originated from outside of our CDFA organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is expected and is safe.

I support the idea of an organic transition support program under HSP, however, I recommend the program support farmers that want to leapfrog Organic and go straight for Patagonia's new Regenerative Organic Certification.

photo 

Cody Harrison
Beyond Sustainability Specialist, Corona Enterprises
434-242-6879 | www.corona-enterprises.com | [Portfolio](#)

☐ ☐

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 1:12 PM Kevin Muno <kevin@ecologyartisans.com> wrote:

I think it would be awesome if we could get paid to transition to organic.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **CalCAN** <donotreply@wordpress.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 10:02 AM
Subject: [New post] Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option Moves Forward: Comment Now
To: <kevin@ecologyartisans.com>

Guest Blogger posted: "This post was written by Jane Sooby at CCOF, a CalCAN Coalition member.

Numerous scientific studies show that organic farming improves soil health and builds soil organic matter, which sequesters carbon in the soil and helps mitigate climate change.

"

New post on **CalCAN**



[Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option Moves Forward: Comment Now](#)

by [Guest Blogger](#)

This post was written by Jane Sooby at [CCOF](#), a CalCAN Coalition member.

Numerous scientific studies show that organic farming improves soil health and builds soil organic matter, which sequesters carbon in the soil and helps mitigate climate change.

This makes organic farming a good match for CDFA's [Healthy Soils program](#), which offers 3-year grants to farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that

build soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, organic farming is better for the environment because organic growers don't use synthetic pesticides that impact human health and reduce pollinator populations.

CCOF has been working to gain approval from CDFA to add an Organic Transition Option to the Healthy Soils program. CDFA currently is [accepting comments](#) on CCOF's idea through Aug. 31.

CCOF's proposed [Organic Transition Option](#) would:

- Offer a small stipend to farmers and ranchers who want to transition to organic to help them develop an organic system plan. The stipend would be in addition to payment for conservation practices
- Help offset the financial risk of the 3-year transition period, especially important for small-scale, beginning, and limited resource farmers
- Increase the likelihood that the grant recipient will continue using conservation practices after the term of the grant because they will be required to under the organic standards

Please submit a comment to CDFA supporting the Organic Transition Option.

Suggested points to make in your comment include:

- The Healthy Soils Program needs to include an organic transition option because organic farming sequesters carbon and helps mitigate climate change in addition to numerous other environmental and economic benefits.
- Transitioning to organic is challenging and a little bit of support will go a long way to helping more farmers and ranchers become organic.
- Reasons that you would like to see more organic acreage in California.

Comments will be reviewed by members of the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel, which advises the Secretary of Food and Agriculture on the Healthy Soils Program. The Panel is likely to make a final decision at its October meeting.

Submit comments by email to cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov by 5 pm on Monday, Aug. 31, 2020.

For additional information contact Jane Sooby, CCOF senior outreach & policy specialist, at jsooby@ccof.org or by phone at 831-425-7205.

Guest Blogger | August 17, 2020 at 10:00 am | Tags: [irrigation efficiency](#)
| URL: <https://wp.me/pap9il-3Bo>

Comment

[See all comments](#)

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Change your email settings at [Manage Subscriptions](#).

Trouble clicking? Copy and paste this URL into your browser:

<https://calclimateag.org/healthy-soils-organic-transition-option-moves-forward-comment-now/>

--

Cheers,

Kevin Muno
President, Ecology Artisans
ecologyartisans.com

760-600-0248

From: Cameron Newell <cameron.newell@xerces.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 3:08 PM
To: CDFA OEFI@CDFA <CDFA.OEFI@cdfa.ca.gov>
Subject: Inclusion of Bee Better Certified Option along with the Organic Transition Option under CDFA's TAP

CAUTION : [External Email] - This email originated from outside of our CDFA organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is expected and is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide comment on the proposed inclusion of the Organic Transition Plan to the CDFA HSP Technical Assistance Program.

Organic farming is not the only system that can aid in achieving the CDFA goals set forth in the HSP. Other programs such as the Xerces Societies Bee Better Certified program (available to both organic and conventional farmers) encourage increased adoption and continued implementation of many of the practices funded under CDFA HSP, including cover cropping, conservation cover, field borders, hedgerow planting to name a few. In fact, through the habitat requirements of Bee Better Certified a combination of these practices is mandated in order to achieve certification. Including a Bee Better Certified Option along with the Organic Transition Option under CDFA's Technical Assistance Program would further facilitate the achievement of the goals set forth by the CDFA and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. I would be happy to provide any additional information on the inclusion of this option.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Cameron Newell

Pollinator Conservation Specialist and Bee Better Certified Program Coordinator

--

Cameron Newell
Pollinator Conservation Specialist and Bee Better Certified Program Coordinator
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
619 495-3253



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CCOF

Advancing organic agriculture through certification, education, advocacy, and promotion.

Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 28, 2020

Re: Organic Transition Option for the Healthy Soils Program

Dear Members of the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel and OEFI Staff:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comment on the panel's ongoing consideration of adding an Organic Transition Option to the Healthy Soils Program. California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) is a nonprofit organization that advances organic agriculture for a healthy world through organic certification, education, advocacy, and promotion.

CCOF and the 56 undersigned businesses and organizations continue to advocate that an Organic Transition Option be included in the Healthy Soils Incentives Program.

This letter shows how the Organic Transition Option is a good match for the Healthy Soils Incentives Program and addresses concerns raised by the panel during their July 16, 2020 meeting.

The Healthy Soils Program Should Incentivize Organic Farming and Ranching

We know that organic farming improves soil health and sequesters carbon. Organic farming should be an important element of any strategy to mitigate climate change. Organic farming meets the goals of CDFA and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to "achieve feasible and cost-effective GHG emission reductions."¹ Scientific studies, including those conducted by

¹ California Air Resources Board. (2019). Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Third Investment Plan: Fiscal Years 2019-20 through 2021-22. Retrieved from https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/2019_thirdinvestmentplan_final_021519.pdf?_ga=2.44130916.1147759135.1574730304-744090955.1563814456

CCOF Comment on Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option

UC Davis researchers, consistently find that organic farming builds soil organic matter²--which stores carbon in the soil--and has lower net GHG emissions.³

Increasingly, organic farming is receiving recognition as an important strategy in preparing agriculture for climate change. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) recently published a report calling for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to “*Promote organic agriculture to make agriculture more resilient in the face of climate change while reducing GHG emissions from the agriculture production sector.*”⁴

The Organic Transition Option Will Support Long-Term Adoption of Healthy Soils Practices

Providing support for a grower to develop an Organic System Plan while implementing Healthy Soils-funded practices will make it more likely that the grower will continue using healthy soils practices after the term of the Healthy Soils grant because certified organic producers are required by federal law to use practices--including crop rotation, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials--that maintain or improve soil organic matter content and the overall physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil.⁵ In addition they specifically are required to utilize crop rotation to maintain or improve soil organic matter content.⁶ Assisting producers transition to organic certification will ensure they continue to use practices that keep soil healthy.

Additionally, the organic premium they receive once certified will help offset ongoing costs of implementing the healthy soils practices.

The Organic Transition Option Is A Good Match for the Healthy Soils Incentives Program

An Organic Transition Option aligns with the Healthy Soils Program’s mission of improving soil health, sequestering carbon, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CCOF recommends the

² Greater carbon storage in organically managed plots has been found in numerous published studies including reports on UC Davis trials, USDA Agricultural Research Service studies in Salinas, a national soil survey, and an international meta-analysis of soil quality data. See Wolf, K., Herrera, I., Tomich, T.P., & Scow, K. (2017). Long-term agricultural experiments inform the development of climate-smart agricultural practices. *California Agriculture*, 71, 120-124; Brennan, E.B., & Acosta Martinez, V. (2017); Cover cropping frequency is the main driver of soil microbial changes during six years of organic vegetable production. *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*, 109, 188-204; Ghabbour, E.A., Davies, G., Misiewicz, T., Alami, R.A., Askounis, E.M., Cuzzo, N.P., . . . Shade, J. (2017). Chapter one - national comparison of the total and sequestered organic matter contents of conventional and organic farm soil. *Advances in Agronomy*, 146, 1-35; Sanders, J. & Hess, J. (Eds), 2019. *Leistungen des ökologischen Landbaus für Umwelt und Gesellschaft*. Braunschweig: Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, 364 p, Thünen Report 65.

³ De Gryze, S., Wolf, A., Kaffka, S. R., Mitchell, J., Rolston, D. E., Temple, . . . Six, J. (2010). Simulating greenhouse gas budgets of four California cropping systems under conventional and alternative management. *Ecological Applications*, 20(7), 1805-1819.

⁴ National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. 2019. *Agriculture and Climate Change: Policy Imperatives and Opportunities to Help Producers Meet the Challenge*. Washington D.C.

⁵ Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard. (2018). U.S. Government Printing Office, Electronic Code of U.S. Federal Regulations, Title 7, Subtitle B, Chapter I, Subchapter M, Organic Foods Production Act Provisions Part 205. 7 CFR §205.203. Retrieved from https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=c250fc790d44a97120c8a4935e000b15&mc=true&node=se7.3.205_1203&rgn=div8

⁶ Crop rotation practice standard. (2018). U.S. Government Printing Office, Electronic Code of U.S. Federal Regulations, Title 7, Subtitle B, Chapter I, Subchapter M, Organic Foods Production Act Provisions Part 205. 7 CFR §205.205. Retrieved from https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=fb3df1f8296f8d5599a8db-97639b6732&mc=true&n=sp7.3.205.c&r=SUBPART&ty=HTML#se7.3.205_1205

CCOF Comment on Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option

Healthy Soils Incentive Program offer a stipend directly to farmers and ranchers to develop an Organic System Plan, the detailed description of the practices and procedures used to produce organic crops and livestock that is a prerequisite for becoming certified organic. The applicant would also receive funding to implement approved Healthy Soils practices.

Providing the stipend directly to growers rather than funneling it through the Technical Assistance program will free growers to locate an advisor with specific expertise in organic crop and livestock production instead of being constrained by the advisors who have received CDFA technical assistance grants. It will also allow them sufficient time to develop the Organic System Plan over the course of the grant period instead of having to have the plan in place prior to applying for Healthy Soils funding.

Land can be certified organic after three years of transition during which no prohibited materials are applied. The three-year period of the Healthy Soils Incentive grant would coincide with the required three-year organic transition period. Pairing payment to develop an Organic System Plan with payment for conservation practices over the term of the Healthy Soils grant will offset the increased labor and management costs of organic production. With the Organic System Plan in place, the producer will be able to become certified organic immediately after the term of the Healthy Soils grant.

The Organic Transition Option Will Help Farmers and Ranchers Negotiate the Steep Learning Curve Involved with Transitioning to Organic Production

The stipend is necessary because of the time and expertise required to develop an initial Organic System Plan. In addition to learning how to maintain the detailed paperwork required for organic audits and inspections, producers new to organic may not be familiar with organically-approved materials and practices and face a steep learning curve when transitioning to the new system. Managing a farm or ranch without chemicals is a challenge and it requires intentional effort for growers to learn how to manage a new system.

One study found that the time and effort required to learn how to farm organically could be a significant barrier to more growers becoming organic and documented that growers transitioning to “reduced chemical” management invested a minimum of 2.9 hours per week learning the system while farmers transitioning to organic invested 5.2 hours per week.⁷ A team of UC Davis researchers postulated that the yield reduction commonly seen during the transition period may not be due to the soil’s adjustment to biological management as previously hypothesized but to the effort required for growers to master organic farming.⁸

⁷ Boerngen, M.A., & Bullock, D.S. (2004). Farmers’ time investment in human capital: A comparison between conventional and reduced-chemical growers. *Renewable Ag & Food Systems* 19(2):100-109. A summary *Calculating the Learning Curve for Farmers* is posted online at <https://aces.illinois.edu/news/calculating-learning-curve-farmers-0>

⁸ Martini, E.A., Buyer, J.S., Bryant, D.C., Hartz, T.K., & Denison, R.F. (2004). Yield increases during the organic transition: improving soil quality or increasing experience? *Field Crops Research*, 86(2-3), 255-266.

CCOF Comment on Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option

The Organic Transition Option Will Make Organic Certification Accessible to Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers

Transitioning to organic production is an economic challenge and a difficult task to accomplish. Offering a modest stipend along with payment for approved Healthy Soils practices will make organic certification more accessible to limited resource, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who otherwise might find the three-year transition economically infeasible. The Organic Transition Option would offset financial and technical barriers to transition.

Accountability Measures Can Be Readily Built into the Program

The Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option is patterned after the EQIP Organic Initiative offered by NRCS. NRCS utilizes a form, the EQIP Organic Initiative Self-Certification Worksheet,⁹ that could readily be modified for purposes of the Healthy Soils Program. The Healthy Soils grant recipient would self-certify that they will follow the federal organic standards during the term of the grant, that they will use the stipend to develop an Organic System Plan, and will apply to an accredited certification agency to become certified organic after the three-year transition is complete.

The Stipend Amount May Be Adjusted

The panel briefly discussed the possibility of lowering the stipend amount. CCOF based the suggested \$4,300¹⁰ for a producer to hire an organic crop consultant to help them complete an Organic System Plan on the amount that NRCS offers through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative, which provides funding for producers to hire a consultant to develop a conservation plan and an Organic System Plan for the farm. Because CCOF's proposal is to offer a stipend to develop an Organic System Plan only, it would be fair to reduce the stipend amount by no more than 50%.

An Organic Transition Option Benefits Disadvantaged Communities

An Organic Transition Option would help the Healthy Soils Program meet GGRF requirements to benefit disadvantaged communities by reducing exposure to synthetic herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides in communities already disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution.

An Organic Transition Option Maximizes Economic, Environmental, and Public Health Co-Benefits

An Organic Transition Option would meet the goal of CDFA and the GGRF to provide co-benefits because organic agriculture benefits the economy, environment, and public health. Organic agriculture improves soil water holding capacity, improves soil structure, reduces pollution from soil erosion and nutrient leaching, creates jobs, and improves environmental

⁹ <https://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/FY-2012-Attachment-A-Self-Cert.pdf>

¹⁰ See EQIP Payment Schedule at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/?cid=nrcseprd1328227> and scroll to p. 5, Component: HU-Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition CAP Crops or Livestock, \$4,368.38.

CCOF Comment on Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option

health. (Refer to CCOF's [Roadmap to an Organic California: Benefits Report](#) for detailed citations.)

Thank you for your consideration,



Jane Sooby
Senior Outreach and Policy Specialist

Additional Signatories

1. Anne Jacopetti, Steering Committee member, 350 Sonoma
2. Andy Naja-Riese, Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Institute of Marin
3. Patricia Carrillo, Executive Director, Agriculture & Land-Based Training Association (ALBA)
4. Fernando Serrano, Director, Alianza Ecologista del Condado de Tulare
5. David F. Gassman, co-convenor, Bay Area--System Change Not Climate Change
6. Thea Maria Carlson, Executive Director, Biodynamic Association
7. Brian Shobe, Associate Policy Director, California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN)
8. Jane Williams, Executive Director, California Communities Against Toxics
9. Reggie Knox, Executive Director, California FarmLink
10. Sarah Aird & Jane Sellen, Co-Directors, Californians for Pesticide Reform
11. Caroline Cox, Senior Scientist, Center for Environmental Health
12. Dr. Ann Lopez, Executive Director, Center for Farmworker Families
13. Rebecca Spector, West Coast Director, Center for Food Safety
14. Lupe Martinez, Assistant Director, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
15. Kevin Hamilton, Executive Director, Central California Asthma Collaborative
16. Nayamin Martinez, MPH, Director, Central California Environmental Justice Network
17. Cathryn Couch, Founder and CEO, Ceres Community Project
18. Matthew Dillon, Vice President Government Relations & Social Impact, Clif Bar & Company
19. Felipe Aguirre, Coordinator, Comité Pro Uno Maywood Ca.
20. David Runsten, Policy Director, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)
21. Amanda Hixson, Food Program Director, Del Norte and Tribal Lands Community Food Council
22. Camila Chávez, Executive Director, Dolores Huerta Foundation
23. Andy Fisher, Executive Director, Ecological Farming Assoc.
24. Esperanza Vielma, Executive Director, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
25. Bill Allayaud, California Director of Governmental Affairs, Environmental Working Group

CCOF Comment on Healthy Soils Organic Transition Option

26. Lendri Purcell, Co-Founding Board President, Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety (FACTS)
27. Lisa Archer, Food and Agriculture Program Director, Friends of the Earth U.S.
28. Anet Aguilar, Latinx Outreach, GMO Free California
29. Bradley Angel, Executive Director, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
30. Lucia Sayre, Director of Regional Innovation and Community Resilience, Healthy Food in Health Care program, Health Care Without Harm
31. Kimberly Baker, Executive Director, Klamath Forest Alliance
32. Ronnell Hampton, MAUS, Policy Manager, Los Angeles Food Policy Council
33. Rika Gopinath, Co-chair, Moms Advocating Sustainability
34. Lynne Baker, member, Steering Committee, Napa Climate Now/350 Bay Area
35. Rex Dufour, Western Regional Office Director, National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)
36. Roosevelt Tarlessen, Executive Director, National Economic and Social Development Action Committee
37. Lena Brook, Director, Food Campaigns, NRDC
38. Dave Henson, Executive Director, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
39. Brise Tencer, Executive Director, Organic Farming Research Foundation
40. Margaret Reeves, Senior Scientist, Pesticide Action Network—North America (PANNA)
41. Harry Wang, MD, President, Physicians for Social Responsibility/Sacramento
42. Padi Selwyn, Co-chair, Preserve Rural Sonoma County
43. Michael Reid Dimock, Director, Roots of Change
44. Robert M. Gould, M.D., President, San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
45. Miriam Limov, Farm Institute Associate, Sierra Harvest
46. Keith Schildt, Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, Slow Food CA
47. Nichole Warwick, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Sonoma Safe Agriculture Safe Schools (SASS)
48. Janet S Johnson, Coordinator, Sunflower Alliance
49. Elena Karoulina, Executive Director, Sustainable Solano
50. Katie Huggins, Vice President Technical Services, Traditional Medicinals
51. Bianca G. Lopez, Co-Founder/Project Director, Valley Improvement Projects
52. Adam Vega, Community Organizer, Ventura County Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety (VC-CAPS)
53. Janice Schroeder, Core Member, West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
54. Jo Ann Baumgartner, Executive Director, Wild Farm Alliance
55. Janus Holt Matthes, Board Member, Wine & Water Watch (Sonoma County Tomorrow affiliate)
56. Jora Trang, Chief of Staff and Equity, Worksafe

-----Original Message-----

From: wendy Krupnick <wlk@sonic.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2020 9:05 PM
To: CDFA OEFI@CDFA <CDFA.OEFI@cdfa.ca.gov>
Subject: Healthy Soils Organic Transition

CAUTION : [External Email] - This email originated from outside of our CDFA organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is expected and is safe.

To whom it may concern,

As an organic farmer and educator for 46 years, I urge you to adopt the Organic Transition Option for the Healthy Soils Program.

The proven benefits of organic farming and "carbon farming" practices have become more evident, so more and more farmers and ranchers are interested in adopting these practices. State support for these farmers and practices will be a win-win-win for the producers, environments and people of the state and beyond.

Organic farming captures carbon helping to mitigate climate change as well as the impacts of the weather extremes we are experiencing. Yet changing growing practices is always challenging for producers so some support from the State will go a long way towards helping with this transition.

Of course, there are many other reasons why more organic farming will benefit the state. Reduced exposure to pesticides by farm workers, in farming communities and to water and wildlife is critical. And the demand for organic food in the US exceeds supply; the more food consumed in the US that is grown in the US the better for our economy and food security.

Please approve this program and continue the maximum funding for the Healthy Soils Program.

Sincerely yours,

Wendy Krupnick

Santa Rosa, CA



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

1127-11TH STREET, SUITE 626, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 • PHONE (916) 446-4647

August 31, 2020

Dr. Jeff Dlott
Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Organic Transition Plan to the Healthy Soils Program

Dear Chair Dlott:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposal forwarded by the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) to add a transition to organic option in the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Soils Program (Program).

The California Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau) is a farmer-led organization, representing more than 30,000 farmers and ranchers, organic and conventional. We strive to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through stewardship of California's resources. As you review this proposal, Farm Bureau asks that you bear in mind that it does not meet the standards required for all other approved practices, would not provide additional funding to farmers but rather to for-profit consultants, and sets a precedent which will lead to a dramatic shift of the guiding principles and objectives of the Program.

Planning Does Not Build Soil Organic Matter

To preface this objection, Farm Bureau supports organic production (a large portion of our members are certified organic producers), and we do not rebut that organic practices build soil organic matter. We do, however, object to this proposal as it merely subsidizes the development of a plan rather than actual practices that build soil health, sequester carbon, and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Planning alone, as this proposal seeks to fund, does not have a demonstrable nexus to those discrete, purposeful objectives of the Program. Moreover, there are already existing assistance programs available for this aim, including public funds by USDA-FSA, and private funds, such as CCOF's Organic Transition Grants. Scaling up these programs and others within the State Organic Program should be explored rather than modifying the Healthy Soils Program.

While developing an organic systems plan will help growers who are *considering* transitioning to organic, it is only the first of many, more expensive hurdles of the certification process which can take years to complete, if at all. Farmers weigh many factors as they choose to transition their acres—these include things like the commodity market, access to natural resources, land use patterns, employment costs. Unfortunately, these often lead a grower to not transition to organic, even after a plan has been

developed. In this circumstance, there would be no soil benefit derived and constitute a waste of limited funding that should be available to farms with approved projects. The same could be said if a grower does transition to organic and then later transitions out, as is a customary practice in agriculture. The Department has no authority to “claw-back” grant funds and redistribute them. As Farm Bureau and other groups advocate for Program funding within the Legislature and the Administration, having hard data demonstrating every state dollar of investment yields a definitive climate benefit is paramount. Without this information, the Program’s efficacy will be questioned. Given the currently oversubscribed nature of the Program, foregoing funding for shovel-ready projects that will have an effect *today* to pay for planning that *may* lead to practices in the future is unwise.

Funding Will Not Be Directed to Farmers or Directly Benefit Farmers

The Healthy Soils Program is one of the only State funding programs that is directly for California farmers and ranchers. At a time when regulatory obligations on farming communities have risen and the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically driven profits down, it’s important that this underserved community continues to have access to funds to make on-farm improvements and be resilient to climate change. Since the Program’s inception, funds that were supposed to be secured directly for farmers have been chipped away in many forms—directed for technical assistance, demonstration projects, etc. This proposal would continue that legacy and directly fund for-profit consultants or advisors who would be paid to render this planning service, rather than to growers to cover the cost to implement practices. If the goal of the Program is to “provide financial assistance for implementation of conservation management,” as stated, it should rather than be used to feather the nest of others, as proposed.

Proposal is the Proverbial Camel’s Nose Under the Tent

The Healthy Soils Program has seen dramatic changes in recent years—approving new practices, adapting to changing standards, and managing the inconsistency of State funding. Through that evolution, the Department and the Panel have used GHG emission reductions and soil organic matter as the guideposts to direct the Program’s path forward. Using funds to pay for planning protocols is not continuing within those guideposts, but rather is a significant deviation of the Program’s path. If this proposal is approved, it will invite all other planning entities to seek funding through the Program, even if they cannot demonstrate a direct GHG emission reduction or increase soil organic matter. These types of plans could include but aren’t limited to--biodiversity plans, carbon farming plans, regenerative agriculture plans, farm succession plans, nutrient management plans. While it is disappointing, the Program’s funding is finite. Every dollar offered to market planning protocols is one less dollar available to do actual healthy soils practices on farm.

A Viable Alternative: Create a Climate Smart Farm Planning Program

This transition to organic proposal does not fit within the existing structure of the Program—it is not an on-farm incentive to implement practices and does not meet the standards of technical assistance. Rather than try to force a square peg in a round hole, Farm Bureau suggests the Department and Panel consider creating a Climate Smart Farm Planning Program. Through deliberation, the Department with guidance by the Panel, could establish a framework where all planning protocols, currently available and yet to emerge, could be developed and offered to farmers to meet the challenge of climate change. Within this framework, the Panel and Department could determine new objectives, standards and practices, as necessary. This new program could include several farm planning practices that have not be readily acceptable in the Healthy Soils Program but would be helpful to manage climate impacts—this could

include things like resource forecasting, crop selection, income diversification, or emergency management for more frequent bouts of wildfire, flooding or drought. Within this framework, the transition to organic planning protocol would be better suited.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns and suggest a viable alternative that does not undermine the existing Healthy Soils Program. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to Farm Bureau staff, Taylor Roschen, at troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Thank you,



Taylor Roschen, Policy Advocate
California Farm Bureau Federation

cc: Members of the Scientific Advisory Panel
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Jenny Lester-Moffit, Undersecretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, Scientific Advisor, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Agenda Item 4

Establishment of a SWEEP Ad Hoc
Advisory Group

**SWEEP AD HOC SUB-ADVISORY GROUP
SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

DATE SUBMITTED	NAME	AFFILIATION	LOCATION	RESUME/CV SUBMITTED	LETTER OF INTEREST SUBMITTED
9/30/2020	Khaled Bali	University of California	Parlier	yes	yes
9/21/2020	Mark Battany	University of California	San Luis Obispo	yes	yes
9/15/2020	Pat Biddy	Vanguard Ag	Sanger	yes	yes
9/29/2020	Ellen Bruno	University of California	Berkeley	yes	yes
9/30/2020	Kiti Campbell	Westlands Water District	Fresno	yes	yes
9/14/2020	Nancy Comstock	Pumping Efficiency Testing Services (PETS)	Sebastopol	yes	yes
9/30/2020	Ruth Dahlquist-Willard	University of California	Fresno	yes	yes
9/28/2020	Tom Devol	Almond Board of California	Chico	yes	yes
9/14/2020	Craig Elmore	Farmer	Imperial Valley	no	yes
9/30/2020	Dave Evans	Airometrix	Irvine	yes	yes
9/18/2020	Tom Evans	Retired	Riverside	yes	yes
9/18/2020	Ben Faber	University of California	Ventura	yes	yes
9/30/2020	Jarrad Fisher	San Mateo Resource Conservation District	Half Moon Bay	yes	yes
9/24/2020	Steve Fukagawa	Farmer	Kingsburg	yes	yes
9/15/2020	Miguel Garcia	Napa County Resource Conservation District	Napa	yes	yes
9/23/2020	Christine Gemperle	Farmer - Gemperle Orchards	Ceres	yes	yes
9/29/2020	Nathan Harkleroad	Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA)	Salinas	yes	yes
9/30/2020	Daniel Hartwig	Woolf Enterprises	Fresno	yes	no
9/30/2020	Dana Koppes	TRC	Lathrop	yes	yes
9/27/2020	Sarah Kurtz	University of California	Merced	yes	yes
9/30/2020	Ronald Leimgruber	Farmer - Ronald C Leimgruber Farms	Holtville	yes	no
9/30/2020	Lindsey Liebig	Sacramento County Farm Bureau	Galt	yes	no
9/24/2020	Kersey Manliclic	California Air Resources Board	Sacramento	yes	yes
9/22/2020	Sean McNamara	Farmer - Sierra Orchards	Winters	yes	yes
9/28/2020	Josue Medellin-Azuara	University of California	Merced	yes	yes
9/18/2020	Daryn Miller	Constellation Brands, Inc	Paso Robles	yes	yes
9/21/2020	Ali Montazar	University of California	Holtville	yes	yes
9/17/2020	Pramod Pandey	Univeristy of California	Davis	yes	no
9/14/2020	John Peairs	XiO	San Anselmo	yes	yes
9/15/2020	Zack Peek	Altlas Consulting, LLC	Chico	yes	yes
9/28/2020	Valerie Perez	University of California	Watsonville	yes	yes
9/30/2020	Patricia Poire	Kern Groundwater Authority	Bakersfield	yes	no
9/28/2020	Greg Rawlings	Farmer - Jacobs Farm	Davenport	yes	yes
9/22/2020	Dave Runsten	Community Alliance with Family Farmers	Davis	yes	yes
9/30/2020	Brian Shobe	CalCAN	Sacramento	yes	yes
9/21/2020	Chris Terrell	Wexus Technologies, Inc	San Francisco	yes	no
9/16/2020	Tannis Thorlakson	Driscoll's	Santa Barbara	yes	yes
9/19/2020	Emma Torbert	The Student Farm at UC Davis	Davis	yes	yes
9/29/2020	Daniele Zaccaria	University of California	Davis	yes	yes
9/14/2020	Tiebiao Zhao	Xmotors.ai	Sunnyvale	yes	yes
9/28/2020	Qi Zhou	University of California	San Jose	yes	yes

All application materials have been provided to the Secretary and EFA SAP members

Agenda Item 5

Healthy Soils Initiative Partnership
Efforts

A close-up photograph of several small green seedlings with two leaves each, growing out of dark brown soil. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the same plants. The overall tone is natural and hopeful, representing growth and partnership.

Healthy Soil Partnership Framework

Developed through a workshop series
co-hosted by CDFA, CARB, and USDA NRCS

Background and Format

- Workshop series was developed in response to proposals presented to EFA SAP in January 2020
- **Three progressive stakeholder workshops**
 - **Workshop 1:** Presentations on current USDA NRCS and CDFA programs to incentivize healthy soil management practices and CARB quantification methodology
 - **Workshop 2:** Presentations on current or proposed private sector programs to incentivize healthy soil management practices and stakeholder input on framework elements
 - **Workshop 3:** Review and revise framework drafted based on stakeholder input
- **Stakeholders** included technical assistance providers, non-profit organizations, commodity marketing associations, and businesses with supply chain sustainability initiatives.

Draft Framework - Support

- **Site for producers** hosted by the state that links to private partner programs that meet minimum transparency expectations
 - Option to have an additional opt-in listserv for outreach to producers*
- **Letter of support** for partner programs that meet minimum transparency expectations
 - Letter would outline that partner programs are intended to scale up healthy soil practices and have met minimum transparency expectations for a private partner program
 - Letter is intended for use in outreach and education to producers*
- **Standardized quantification tool** – COMET Planner California Healthy Soils
- **Continual update of Healthy Soils Program Practices** through a public process
- **Mechanism for private partners to fund CDFA's Healthy Soils Program** directly if a private entity would like to incentivize healthy soil management practice but would prefer not to start their own program*

Draft Framework - Process

- **Partner submits documentation** that program meets minimum transparency expectations to the state of California for review
- **Approval that minimum transparency expectations are met** precipitates letter of support and link on centralized site
 - If guidelines are adjusted, the state must be notified
- **Review of program conducted every 3 years** or if prompted by complaint. Review would ensure that stated guidelines are the same as previously submitted and to review independent verification audit documentation

Draft Framework – Transparency (1/2)

Program partner must make these items available to the public (online at a minimum) to ensure transparency for producers

- **Clear guidelines:**

- Eligible entities
- List of eligible on-farm conservation practices that are all or a subset of CDFA Healthy Soils practices
- Criteria for selecting or prioritizing project selection
- Selection process that ensures fair review of applications
- Requirements for application and reporting.
- Impacts of non-performance.

- **Identify funding structure:**

- Reimbursement or advanced payment
- Funding amounts (e.g. set rates or based on proposed budget)

Draft Framework – Transparency (2/2)

- **Quantification:** Each project must estimate GHG emissions from on-farm practices. Quantification methodologies will be based on COMET tools developed for the CDFA Healthy Soils Program.
- **Technical assistance:** Partner programs must include some funding mechanism for and/or provision of technical assistance
- **Verification options:**
 - Programs must have a defined process to verify completion of the conservation practices with on-site or virtual visits and/or supporting documentation (e.g. photos, receipts)
 - Conduct independent spot checks of 10% of participants including on-site or virtual visit to ensure practice has been completed.
- **Reporting:** Make the following information available annually on funded projects – parcel number, acreage, practice(s) funded, self-reported demographics, and estimated GHG benefits.

Outstanding Items

- **Opt-in Listserv:** Still looking into maintenance costs / feasibility for this listserv. If feasible, protocol for private partners accessing this listserv would need to be developed.
- **Letter of Support:** Letter is currently being drafted by CDFA and CARB. Language will reflect the intent that the letter should be used exclusively in outreach to producers. It will include direction as to how the letter may be used.
- **Mechanism for private partners to fund CDFA's HSP:** CDFA is still reviewing to ensure that there are no statutory limitations on accepting funds.
 - Once this is verified, guidance would need to be developed regarding what limits might be placed on dissemination of private partners' funds and CDFA reporting limitations on those funds.
- **Coordination with private partners:** The mechanism for coordination is still being explored.
- **Spot check documentation:** Spot check documentation will be modeled from USDA NRCS' program spot check documentation.

Healthy Soils Partnership Framework

BACKGROUND AND FORMAT

Background: The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) received several inquiries and informational material related to investment in healthy soil practices from the private sector. This interest culminated in several requests to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel (EFA SAP) January 2020 public meeting. To look into the matter further, per EFA SAP instruction, CDFA proposed a series of workshops co-hosted with CARB and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to hear additional stakeholder input and develop a partnership framework. The framework developed during these stakeholder workshops is intended to act as a roadmap for organizations who have already expressed interest in partnering with the state to invest in healthy agricultural soils as well as organizations who may be interested in doing so in the future.

Format: The workshops included a series of three progressive workshops addressing the following items:

- Workshop 1: Presentations from USDA NRCS, CDFA, and CARB about existing programs to incentivize healthy soil management practices and existing quantification methodology
- Workshop 2: Hear from stakeholders about private sector incentive programs that are in development or areas of interest; Solicit feedback on (a) how the state might be able to support these programs, (b) what expectations would be reasonable in exchange for that support, (c) what level of coordination is desired.
- Workshop 3: Review and refine the draft framework developed based on the stakeholder feedback from Workshop 2.

Stakeholders participated from a number of industries ranging from commodity organizations, corporations with supply chain sustainability initiatives, non-profits, and technical assistance providers.

Outcomes: The following pages detail:

1. Summary of stakeholder feedback from Workshops 2 & 3
2. List of items proposed but not included in the draft framework and justification for those decisions*
3. Draft framework based on stakeholder feedback and limited program review
 - Update on the items that are still under program review**

Healthy Soils Partnership Framework

1 - WORKSHOP SUMMARY

A) Proposed support for private healthy soils incentive programs:

- Funding clearinghouse for producers linking to all programs that have met state minimum transparency expectations
 - o Option for an opt-in listserv on this page where producers can hear updates on all healthy soil incentive programs**
- Letter of support from the state (CDFA and CARB) stating that the program has met all minimum transparency expectations**
- Technical assistance*
 - o State funding for regional hubs
 - o Ability to transfer funds allocated for technical assistance grants that were not received to technical assistance for private programs
- Standardized quantification tools (California COMET Planner)
 - o Standardized quantification of co-benefits; specifically, water holding capacity and water quality*
- Communication to business - Define 'Healthy Soils' and practices
 - o Educate consumers by providing a 'Healthy Soil' seal similar to the California Green Business program*
- Share economic / practice information with partners to inform private program development (e.g. cost data reported in applications)*
- Task force on data calibration and the role that the state can have on catalyzing research needed to accelerate healthy soils practice implementation*
- Platform (e.g. Open Team) for collating minimum requirements and tracking verification where an applicant could enter proposed project information and receive information on eligibility for all partner programs*

B) Expectations for private partner programs

- Reasonable and/or anticipated transparency expectations to be included as a minimum
 - o Definition of healthy soils practices
 - o Minimum quantification criteria / standardized quantification methodology
 - o Minimum transparency expectations to help ensure producer confidence
 - o Separate minimum transparency expectations for incentive programs similar to CDFA's Healthy Soils Program as well as for

outcome-based compensation markets (e.g. carbon sequestration markets)*

- Expectations that would be prohibitive for private partners and should not be included:
 - o Required soil testing; This may be encouraged but should not be required
 - o Standard / set practice reimbursement rates
 - o Prescriptive verification methodology such as required in-person visits to verify practice implementation

C) Desired level of coordination

- Include an option for producers to choose to share data (beyond what is publicly shared) with other programs participating in the cooperative effort*
- Some feedback component to let other partners know which projects have been funded in case producers apply for the same project with multiple programs
- Coordination of application periods to allow time to inform grantees and other partners of which projects have been funded
- Coordinated education and outreach to producers*
- Sharing of either modeled or measured outcome data (e.g. GHG emissions saving)

Healthy Soils Partnership Framework

2 – * ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN CURRENT FRAMEWORK DRAFT

- Technical assistance - State funding for regional hubs
 - o The framework is intended to identify how the state can collaborate with private programs that directly incentivize implementation of healthy soils practices. While this is intended to indirectly incentivize / facilitate the implementation of healthy soils practices, it is outside of the parameters of this framework. Additionally, no new technical assistance funding is available at this time.
- Technical assistance - Ability to transfer funds allocated for technical assistance grants that were not received to technical assistance for private programs
 - o This is not possible within the parameters of existing grants. Amendments to this grant program are outside of the scope of the partnership framework effort.
- Standardized quantification of co-benefits; specifically, water holding capacity and water quality
 - o This is not possible at this time because the Healthy Soils Program does not have a quantification methodology that can be used as a standard. There is an option to re-evaluate if such a methodology is integrated into COMET Planner and/or a particular model becomes standard for the Healthy Soils Program.
- Educate consumers by providing a 'Healthy Soil' seal similar to the California Green Business program
 - o This item would require legislative change which is not possible within the context of this effort. Concerns were also raised by stakeholders on the call about label fatigue / consumer confusion.
- Share economic / practice information with partners to inform private program development (e.g. cost data reported in applications)
 - o The Healthy Soils Program guidelines and grant agreement with producers specifies what information will be shared with CDFA and what information will be shared with a broader audience. Currently the only mechanism for disseminating data is through public release of information.
- Task force on data calibration and the role that the state can have on catalyzing research needed to accelerate healthy soils practice implementation
 - o The framework is intended to identify how the state can collaborate with private programs that directly incentivize implementation of

healthy soils practices. While this is intended to indirectly incentivize / facilitate the implementation of healthy soils practices, it is outside of the parameters of this framework. Proposals regarding a task force can be made to the EFA SAP separately with the understanding that no funding is currently available at this time for research on data calibration.

- Separate minimum transparency expectations for incentive programs similar to CDFA's Healthy Soils Program as well as for outcome-based compensation markets (e.g. carbon sequestration markets)
 - o Minimum transparency expectations for outcome-based compensation programs / markets were originally developed based on the minimum transparency expectations for incentive programs. While the state wants to encourage and support the development of outcome-based programs, the program framework should not pre-empt requirements from forthcoming markets. The minimum transparency expectations for incentive based programs can be used as a baseline for establishing these project, however, at this time, there is not enough information about emerging markets to set definitive standards.
- Platform (e.g. Open Team) for collating minimum transparency expectations and tracking verification where an applicant could enter proposed project information and receive information on eligibility for all partner programs
 - o No funding is available for implementation and maintenance of the platform at this time. Funding can be better assessed once there is an understanding of how many private partners are interested in participating in this framework.
- Include an option for producers to choose to share data (beyond what is publicly shared) with other programs participating in the cooperative effort
 - o See response above regarding data sharing in the Healthy Soils Program.
- Coordinated education and outreach to producers
 - o Currently no funding is available to provide outreach to producers regarding private partner programs beyond the creation / maintenance of a funding clearinghouse.

Healthy Soils Partnership Framework

3 – FRAMEWORK DRAFT

Exploring Public-Private Partnerships for Healthy Soils

As a result of several requests to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel (EFA SAP) January 2020 public meeting, CDFA and CARB are in the process of completing several stakeholder discussions on potential mechanisms for establishing public-private partnerships. This document is partnership framework proposal that reflects stakeholder input from the previous partnership workshops and state transparency guidelines. This document will serve as an initial framework that has yet to be full evaluated state agencies or the EFA SAP. It will be subject to further review and a public comment period.

STATE SUPPORT

- Site for producers hosted by the state that links to partner programs that meet minimum transparency expectations
 - o Option to have an associated opt-in list serv for producers to hear updates and application announcements from all partner programs**
- Letter of support for partner programs that meet minimum transparency expectations
 - o Letter would outline that partner programs are intended to scale up healthy soil practices and have met minimum transparency expectations for a private partner program
 - o Letter is intended for use in outreach and education to producers. As such, the letter cannot be used to solicit funding**
- Standardized quantification tool – COMET Planner California Healthy Soils
- Continual update of Healthy Soils Program Practices through a public process
- Mechanism for private partners to fund CDFA's Healthy Soils Program directly if a private entity would like to incentivize healthy soil management practice but would prefer not to start their own program**

PARTNERSHIP PROCESS & REVIEW

- Partner submits required documentation (see minimum transparency expectations) to the state of California for review
- Approval that minimum transparency expectations are met precipitates letter of support and link on centralized site
 - o If guidelines are adjusted, the state must be notified

- Review of program conducted every 3 years or if prompted by complaint. Review would ensure that stated guidelines are the same as previously submitted and to review independent verification audit documentation (see minimum transparency expectations – verification)

COORDINATION

- Partner programs should provide application date information to CDFA and try to avoid closing application windows at same time as CDFA to avoid confusion for producers applying to more than one funding source**
- See reporting expectations in minimum transparency expectations below

MINIMUM TRANSPARENCY EXPECTATIONS

1. Transparency:

- o Program partner must make the following guidelines and funding structure elements available to the public (online at a minimum) to ensure transparency for producers
 - Clear guidelines:
 - Eligible entities
 - A list of eligible on-farm conservation practices that are all or a subset of CDFA Healthy Soils practices
 - Selection / prioritization criteria
 - o Examples include cost-effectiveness, project readiness, benefits to underserved communities and farmers
 - Selection process that ensures fair review of applications
 - Requirements for application and reporting.
 - Impacts of non-performance.
 - Identify funding structure:
 - Reimbursement or advanced payment
 - Funding amounts (e.g. set rates or based on proposed budget)

2. Quantification:

- o Each project must estimate GHG emissions from on-farm practices. Quantification methodologies will be based on COMET tools developed for the CDFA Healthy Soils Program.

3. Technical Assistance.

- o Partner programs must include some funding mechanism for and/or provision of technical assistance

4. Tracking Outcomes:

- o Verification options:
 - Partner program must have a process to verify completion of the conservation practices with on-site or virtual visits and/or supporting

- documentation (i.e., photos, receipts). Programs may use a variety of verification options including sub-contracting verification to RCDs.
- Conduct independent spot checks of 10% of participants including on-site or virtual visit to ensure practice has been completed.
- Note: The state will not be conducting spot checks or verification. Review of spot check documentation to be conducted every 3 years.
- Reporting:
 - Make the following information available annually on funded projects - parcel number, acreage, practice(s) funded, self-reported demographics, and estimated GHG benefits

** ITEMS STILL UNDER PROGRAM REVIEW

- Option to have an associated opt-in list serv for producers to hear updates and application announcements from all partner programs
 - The state is still looking into maintenance costs / feasibility for this listserv. If feasible, protocol for private partners accessing this listserv would need to be developed.
- Letter is intended for use in outreach and education to producers. As such, the letter cannot be used to solicit funding
 - Letter is currently being drafted by CDFA and CARB. Language will reflect the intent listed above and will include direction as to how the letter may be used. For example, the letter or excerpts of the letter may be used in outreach materials for producers but cannot be said to 'certify' or 'approve' a program.
- Mechanism for private partners to fund CDFA's Healthy Soils Program directly if a private entity would like to incentivize healthy soil management practice but would prefer not to start their own program
 - CDFA is still reviewing to ensure that there are no statutory limitations on accepting funds. Once this is verified, guidance would need to be developed regarding what limits might be placed on dissemination of private partners' funds and CDFA reporting limitations on those funds.
- Partner programs should provide application date information to CDFA and try to avoid closing application windows at same time as CDFA to avoid confusion for producers applying to more than one funding source
 - The mechanism for coordination is still being explored.
- Conduct independent spot checks of 10% of participants including on-site or virtual visit to ensure practice has been completed.
 - Spot check documentation is still being developed but will be modeled off of USDA NRCS' program spot check documentation.

Agenda Item 6

Healthy Soils Week 2020

Agenda Item 7

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement
Program (SWEET)

Program updates



State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Update

Science Advisory Panel Update
10/15/20

Update on 2018 and 2019 SWEEP Projects

SWEEP 2018 Round 7

- Implementation timeline: Sept. 1, 2019 – Mar. 1, 2021
- 68 active projects
- 40 projects verified

SWEEP 2019 Round 8

- Implementation timeline: June 15, 2020 – Dec. 15, 2022
- 121 active projects
- 1 project verified



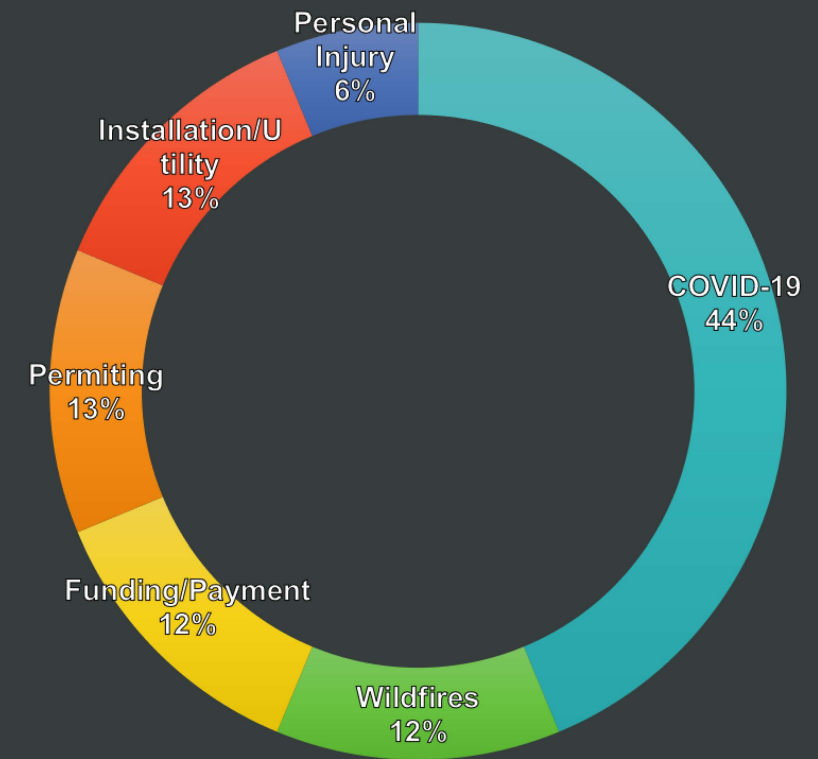
Challenges to 2018 Projects

Some 2018 SWEEP awardees reported experiencing delays due to COVID-19, wildfires, poor air quality, medical injury, funding issues, installation and utility delays.

SWEEP staff sent out a survey to all 2018 projects that had not yet indicated their project was ready for verification

- 25 recipients responded to our survey
- 16 recipients indicated they were experiencing project delays
- 6 recipients indicated that they expected project implementation would take them until the end of the project term (Mar. 2021) or later.

Survey Response for 2018 Project Delays



SWEEP Post Project Quantification

Three years after projects are implemented

Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



2015 Post Project Quantification Process

CARB requires we provide post project reporting for 10% of the projects for three years after project implementation

Selection Process

- Projects are randomly selected using a random number generator
- Projects are reviewed and the data is compiled
- Some projects are excluded from this process due to underlying complexities (missing application data, project size and scope, and other issues)

Outreach

- Generate mail, email, and digital forms
- They are required to provide energy records and indicate how much water was applied
- Energy records are totaled and compiled
- If issues come up we attempt to address them
- We make phone calls if the individual has been unresponsive

Receive Compute and Compare

- Records are received in form of energy records and a completed form
- Numbers are converted and assessed for reasonability
- Reasonable numbers are run through the GHG calc.



Data is received

Form

Water Records

Energy Records

SWEEP Reporting Worksheet

Important information requiring your response

To satisfy reporting requirements of SWEEP, CDFA requests copies of your utility bills and a record of the water used over the 2016 calendar year for parcels associated with the 2015 SWEEP grant. Your original SWEEP project is summarized below:

- received a 2015 SWEEP grant from CDFA to.
- The electricity records provided with this application indicated that the baseline electrical yearly use associated with this project were 1,403,000 kWh.
- This project indicated the presence of a flow meter.

Please complete the table below and attach copies of energy records from January 2016 to December 2016.

Summary of SWEEP project 2016 Water Use:

Water used from January-December 2016	
Unit of water measurement (gal., acre/inches)	
Acres & current crop affiliated with SWEEP Project	
Acres & crop(s) that receive water from the pump(s) affiliated with the SWEEP project	

Additional Comments: Explain any additional information about energy records and water records.

Ranch			
Net SWEEP Acres		111.2	
wells - - - >		12	
Facility Code:		Cle Well #4	
		Flowmeter Totalizer Readings	Monthly Extractions (AF)
Flowmeter Unit:		acre-feet	
Flowmeter Multiplier:		0.0010	
December 31	2015	1,927	
January 31	2016	1,927	0.000
February 29	2016	1,927	0.000
March 31	2016	35,963	34.036
April 30	2016	65,098	29.135
May 31	2016	116,031	50.933
June 30	2016	162,264	46.233
July 31	2016	201,669	39.405
August 31	2016	270,442	68.773
September 30	2016	286,187	15.745
October 31	2016	290,076	3.889
November 30	2016	290,076	0.000
December 31	2016	290,078	0.002
Total Annual Extraction:			288.151
		Cumulative Water Used (AF):	288.151
		2.59per acre	

Month	Energy use kWh	Energy generation Solar	Total energy used on farm
Jan-16	0.1	Non-op	
Feb-16	13728.2	Non-op	
Mar-16	18308.2	Non-op	
Apr-16	5633.9	Non-op	
May-16	10178.8	Operational	
Jun-16	27857.8	Operational	
Jul-16	33119.3	Operational	
Aug-16	21974.8	Operational	
Sep-16	1248.6	Operational	
Oct-16	0	Operational	
Nov-16	0	Operational	
Dec-16	0	Operational	
Year	132049.7	39508	171557.7

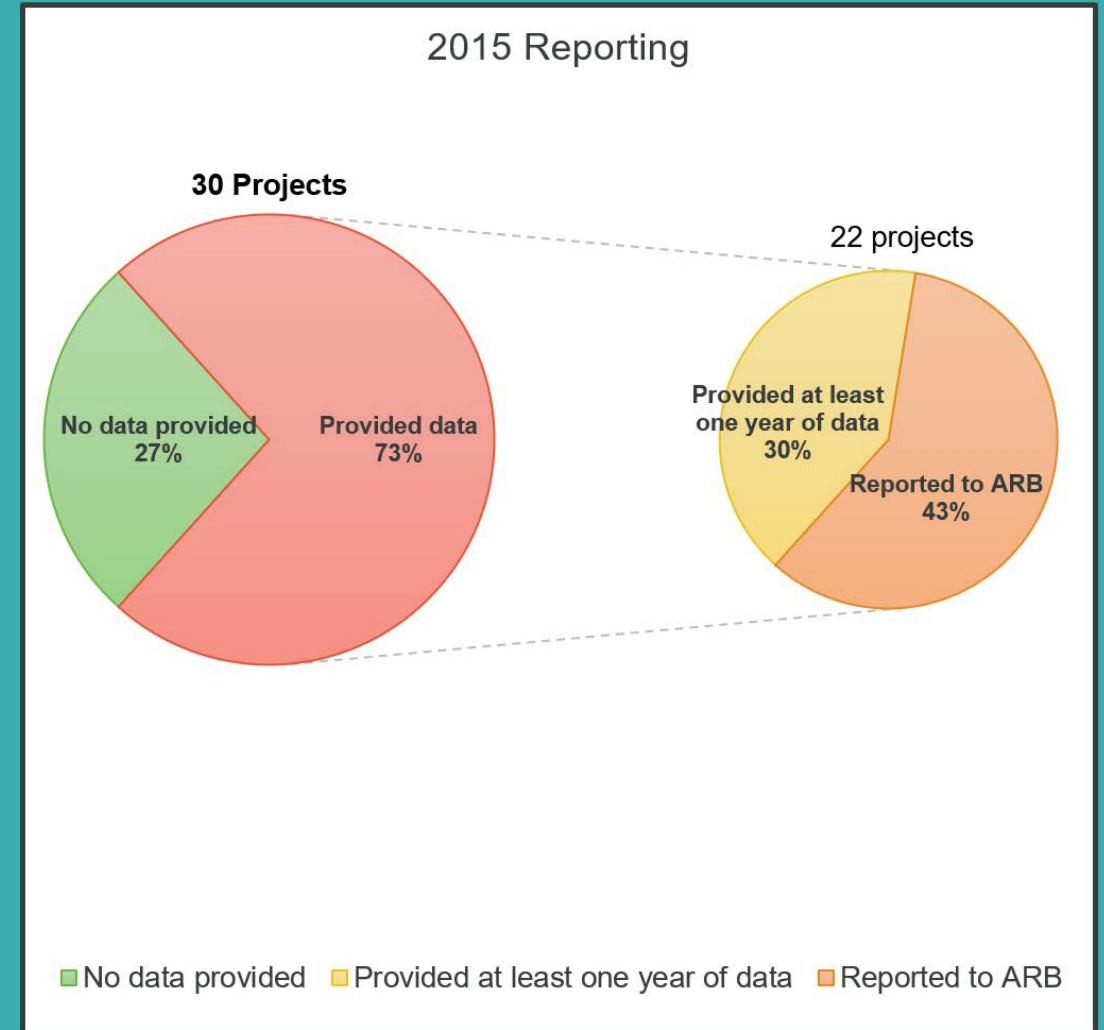
GHG Calculator Used In 2015

Energy Type	Current Fuel Usage/Year	Estimated Fuel Usage After Project Installation/Year	Potential Fuel Savings/Year	Potential GHG Savings/Year (Tonnes CO ₂ E/Year)
Electricity from Utility Provider (Kwh)	0.00	15000	-15000.000	-4.590000
Distillate Fuel Oil No. 2 Diesel (Gallons)	1350	0.00	1350.000	13.829522
Motor Gasoline (Gallons)	0.00	0.00	0	0.000000
Butane (Gallons)	0.00	0.00	0	0.000000
Biodiesel (100%) (Gallons)	0.00	0.00	0	0.000000
Propane (Gallons)	0.00	0.00	0	0.000000
Natural Gas (SCF)	0.00	0.00	0	0.000000
*Note that Solar Power and Wind Power do not contribute to GHGs from fuel use				
Total Ghg Savings/Year (Tonnes CO ₂ E/Year)				9.23952
Total Acres Impacted By Project				55
Total Ghg Savings/Year/Acre (Tonnes CO ₂ E/Year/Acre)				0.16799



2015 Post Project Quantification

- CDFA's 2015 SWEEP resulted in 99 complete projects.
- CDFA is required to report on project outcomes for 10% of the projects that received funds for three years following project completion.
- CDFA randomly selected 30% of the projects to monitor for outcomes. Of those, only 22 reported at least once. Of the 22, only 20 reported for all three years, 13 were reported to ARB and are part of the assessment



2015 PPQ

Why were some projects that reported data to CDFA not included in this assessment?

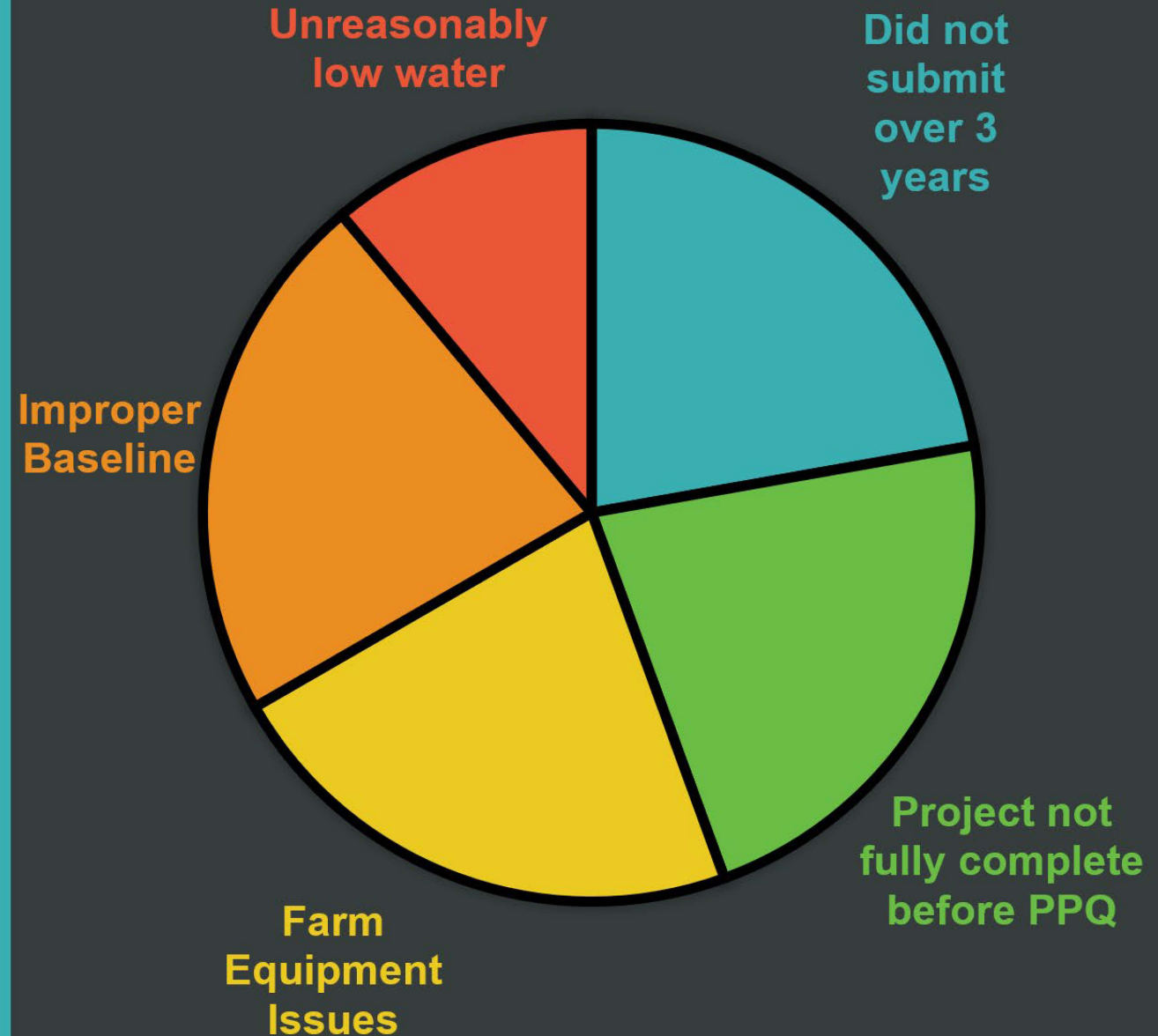
- Did not report all of the required three years
- Missing baseline data – incomplete or missing months (we require 6 months but not everyone provided)
- On farm issues resulting in post project changes (e.g. well failure, water movement outside of the project, ownership change)
- Water records did not make sense - far too low
- Projects not fully complete (Solar not connected or operation at start of PPQ)

22 projects reported

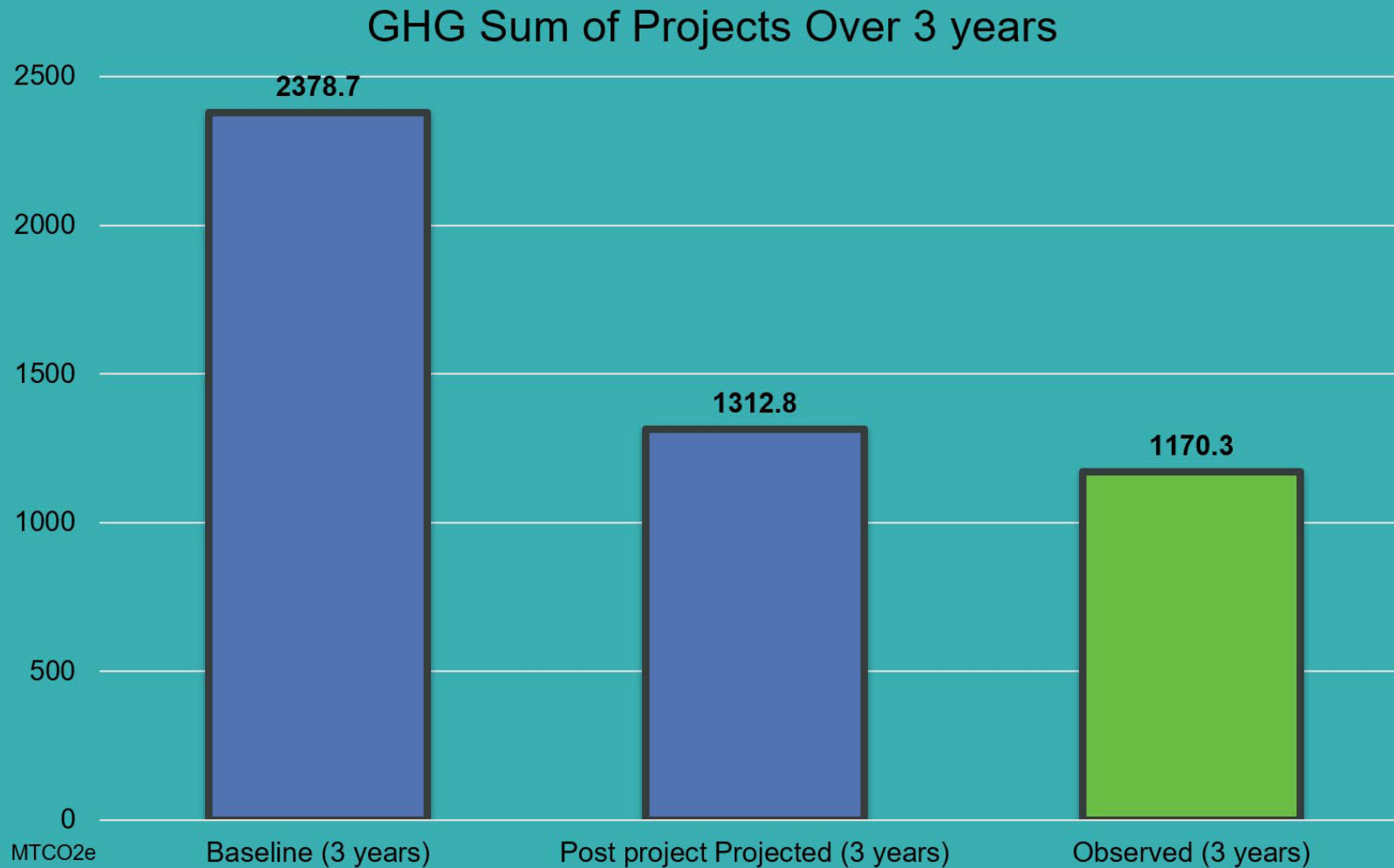
9 excluded

13 used

PROJECTS THAT WERE EXCLUDED



2015 PPQ GHG Emissions Over Three Years (13 projects)



2015 PPQ Water Use Over Three Years (13 Projects)



Water use over 3 years (ac-in)



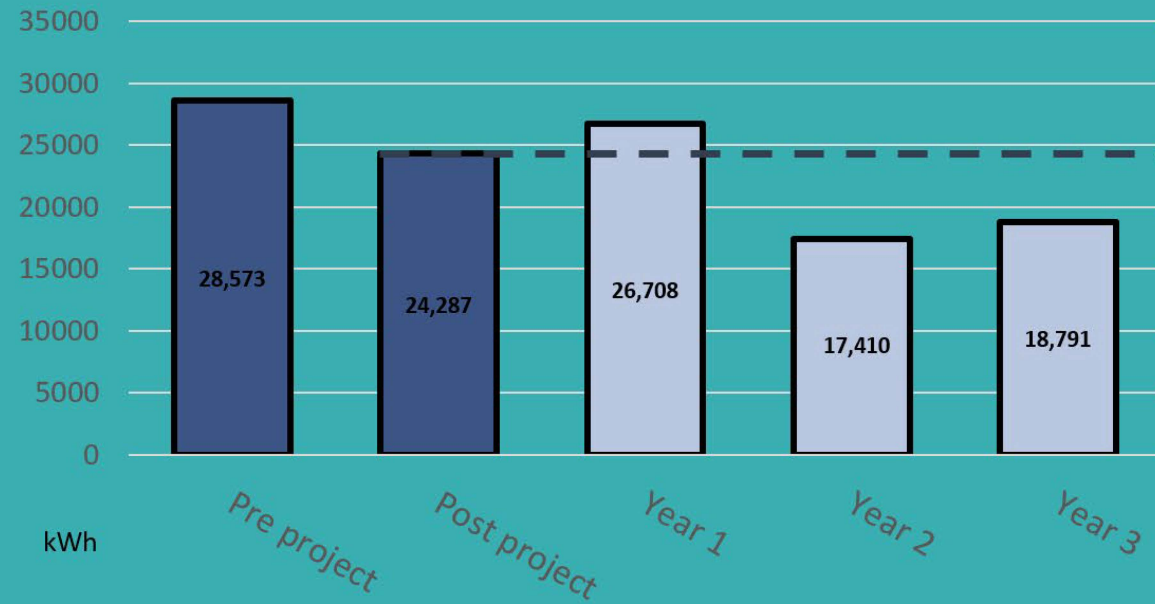
Case Study: Project #14

Project received funds to install a VFD and install an irrigation water management system (flow, Et, and soil moisture)

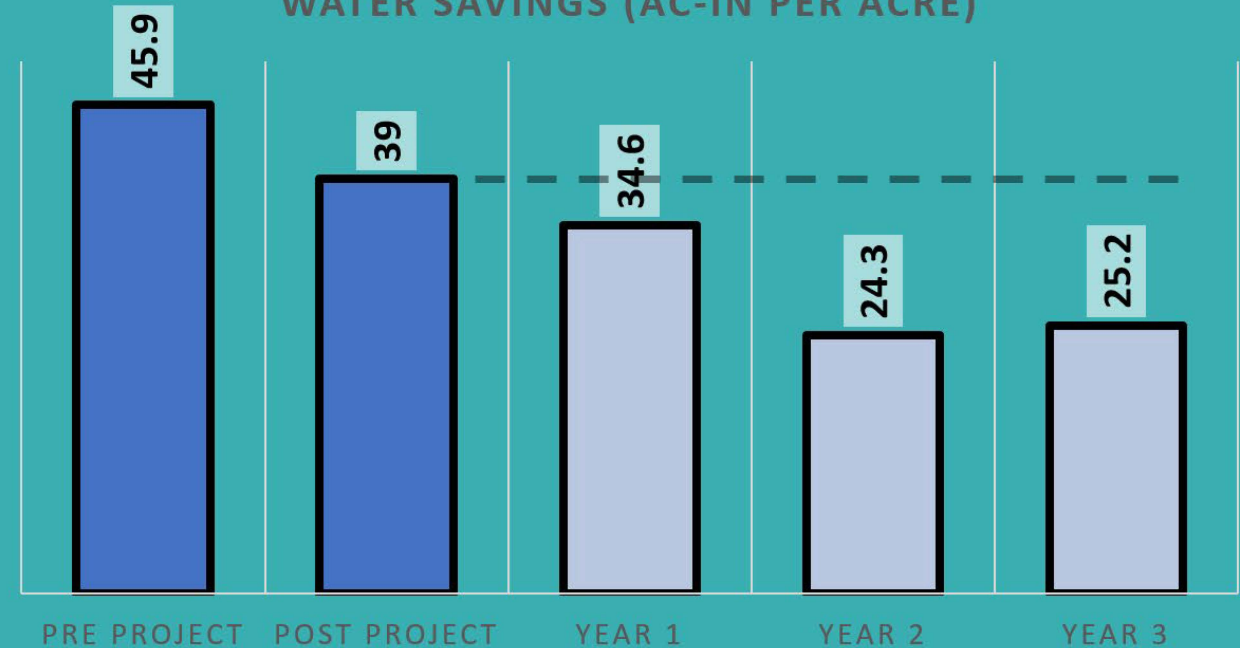
Location: Winters, Solano County
Crop: Almonds, 52 acres.



Electricity used (kWh)



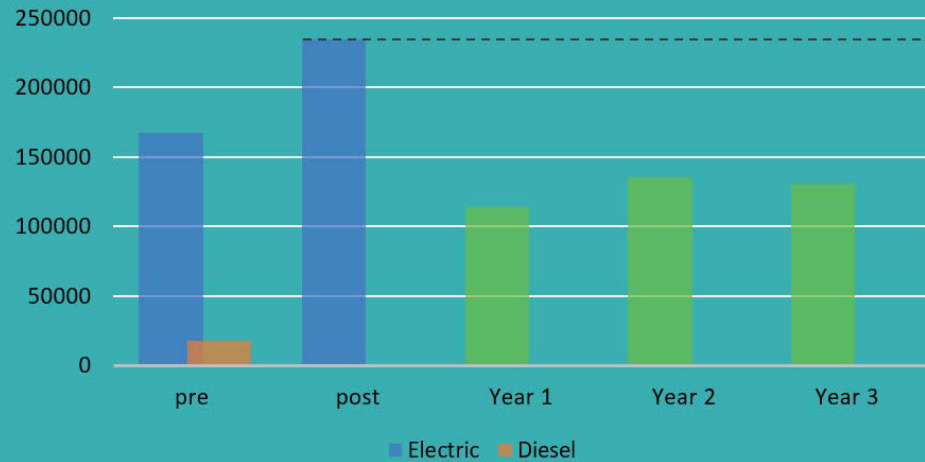
WATER SAVINGS (AC-IN PER ACRE)



Case Studies: Project #28



Project 28 Energy Usage (kWh)



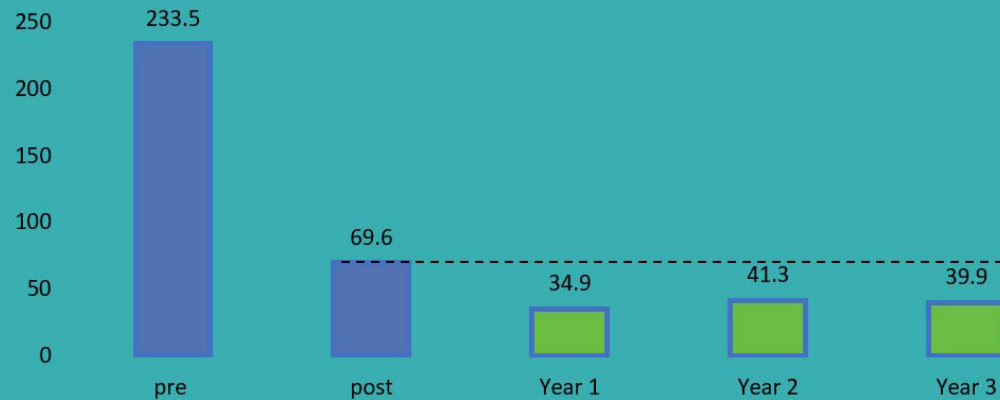
Details of Project 28

- Removal of a large diesel pump and booster pump and a replacement with a single vertical turbine pump with a VFD.
- Installed irrigation water management system including weather, soil, and flow sensors.

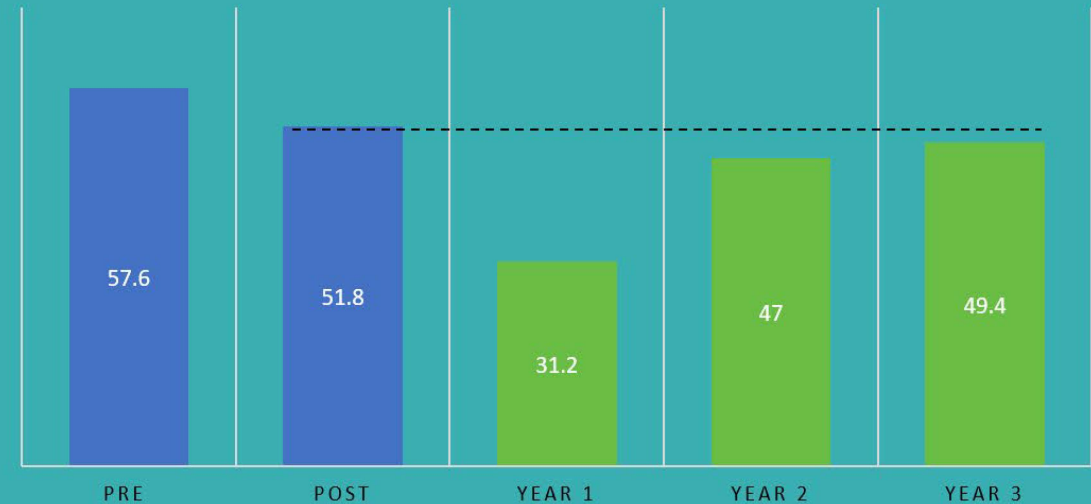
Location: Kings City, Monterey

Crop: Leafy greens

Project 28 GHG (MTCO₂e)

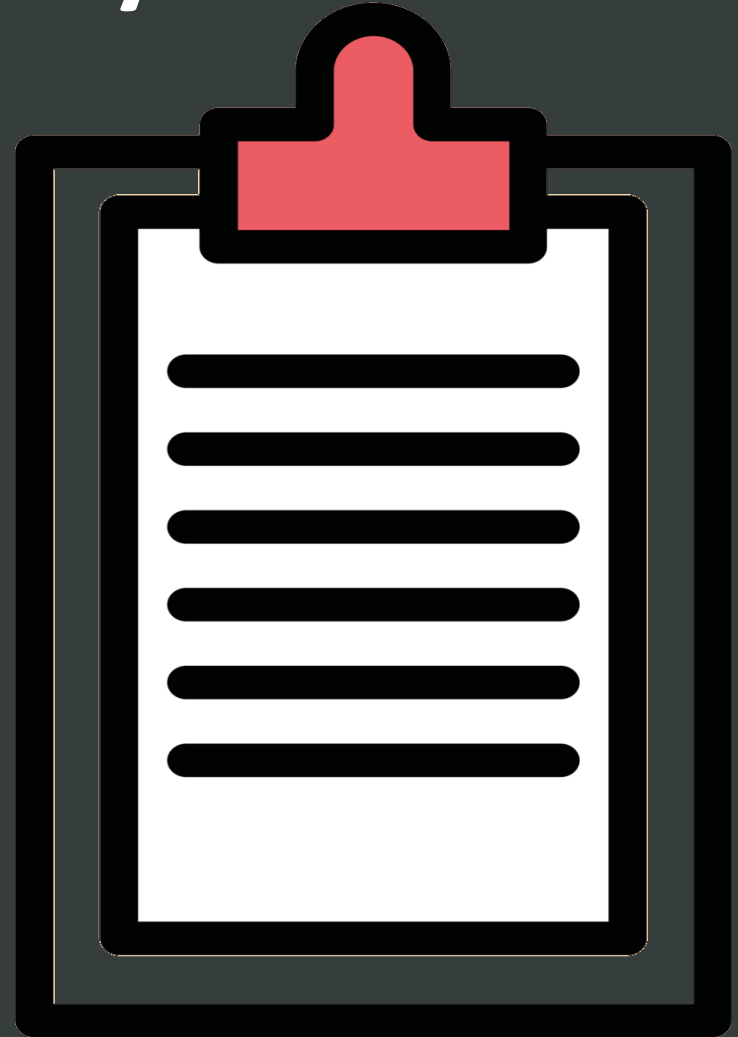


PROJECT 28 WATER USE (AC-IN/ACRE)



2015 PPQ Summary

- Three years of data collection and analysis resulted in this information
- Not every project was selected
- Some projects were removed from the sample because of data quality
- Data suggests that 2015 SWEEP is meeting and/or exceeding projections collectively
- Not every project is meeting the expectations





2016 Rd 1 PPQ

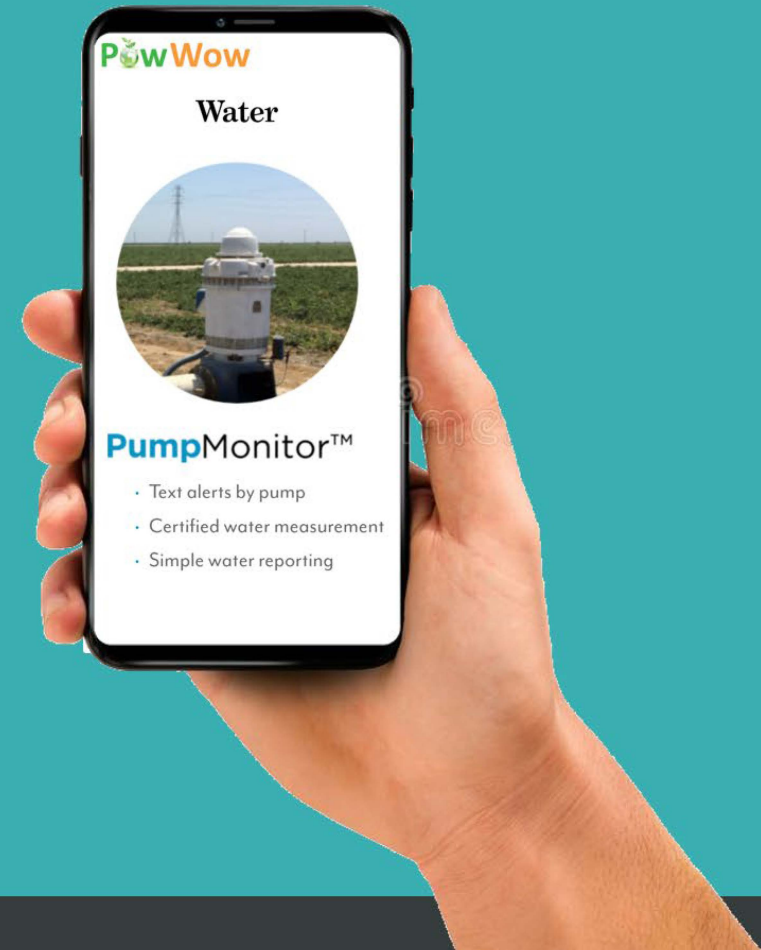
Third Party Quantification of Benefits of CDFA SWEEP Projects

Winning bid went to PowWow Energy, Inc

PowWow uses smart meter technology to monitor both water and energy usage minute by minute.

- Hardware Free (uses smart meter data and pump specifications to quantify energy and water use)
- Data stored in cloud and accessible online
- Text alerts provided if unusual data is being detected

Provided needed reporting requirements for the 2016 projects that were submitted to ARB



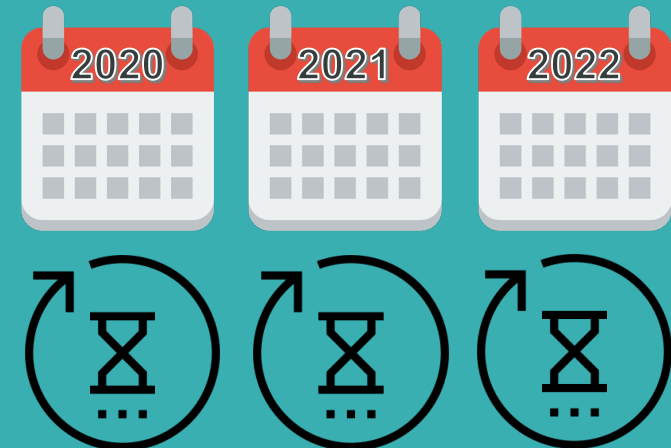
2016 Rd2 PPQ

- 158 projects were completed
- 52 projects selected for post project quantification
- 41 supplied us with some data
- Have received 2 years of information (2018 & 2019)



2017 PPQ

- 82 projects were completed
- 30 projects selected for post project quantification
- 2020 will be first year of information





Thank you!



SWEEP TEAM

CAROLYN COOK

Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor

SCOTT WEEKS

Environmental Scientist

STEPH JAMIS

Environmental Scientist

Agenda Item 8

Healthy Soils Program (HSP)

Program updates



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

Environmental Farming Act - Science Advisory Panel Meeting

Guihua Chen, Ph.D.

Senior Environmental Scientist

October 15, 2020

Sacramento, CA



Outline

- 2020 HSP Updates
 - Incentives Program
 - Demonstration Projects

2020 HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM (HSP) - FUNDING

2020 HSP Funding

- Budget Act of 2019 - \$28 million through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)
- Technical Assistance Grants - \$1.92 million
- \$25 million available for awards
 - Incentives Program – up to \$22 million
 - Demonstration Projects awards – up to \$3 million

2020 HSP INCENTIVES PROGRAM AWARDED PROJECTS - UPDATE

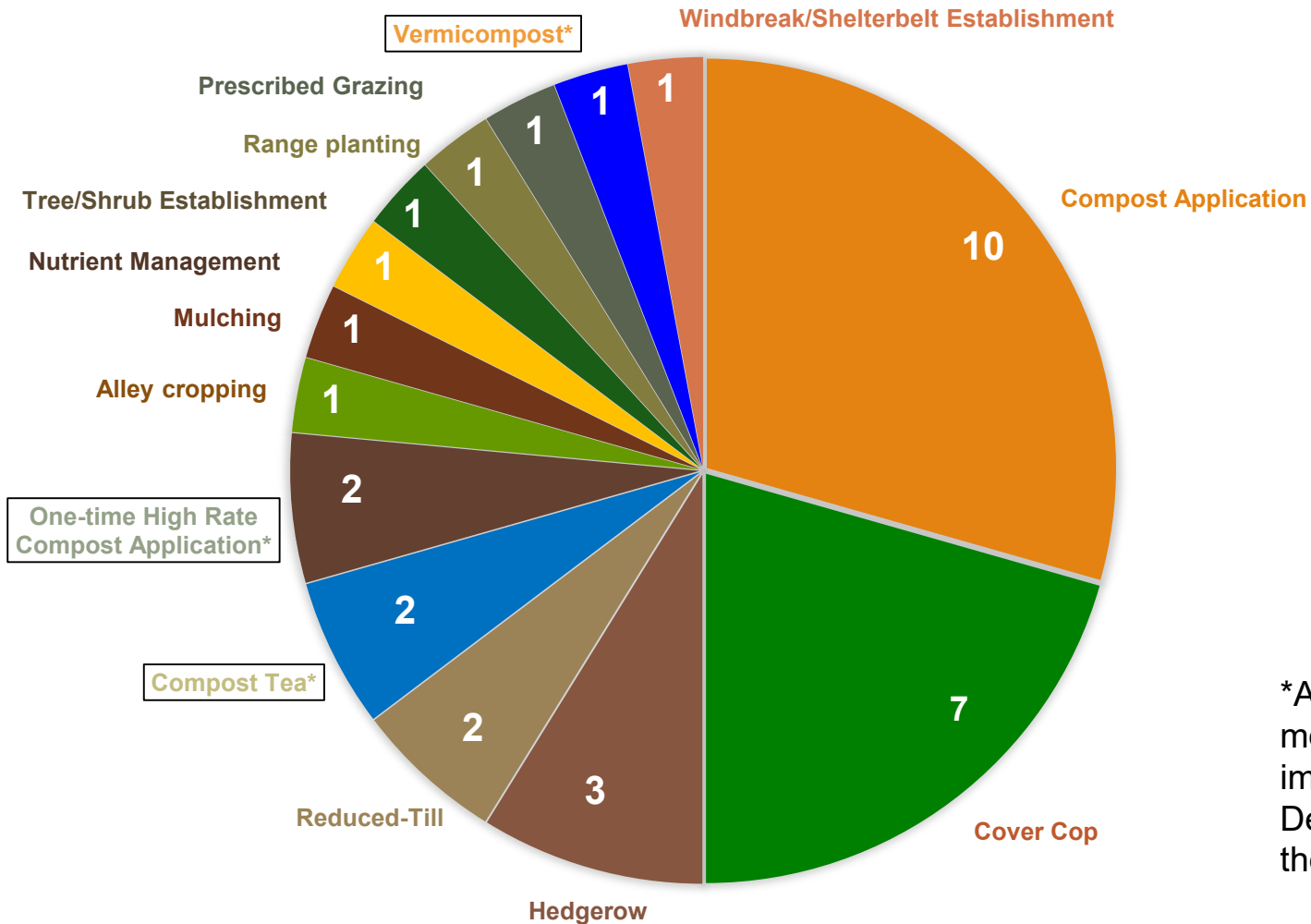
- Last report: 319 projects totaling \$22.29 million selected for awards.
- Current: 316 projects totaling \$21.25 million have been completed or in process of grant agreement execution.
 - During the grant agreement execution period, funds have become available due to cancelled projects and budget review/adjustments during pre-project consultations.
 - CDFA is evaluating additional projects for awards in the order of submission time from those that were scored over 40 to use the available dollar amount.

2020 HSP DEMONSTRATION AWARDED PROJECTS

20 projects totaling \$2.97 million were selected for awards.

- 8 projects on Croplands, 5 on Grazing lands, 7 on Orchards or Vineyards
- Project Type
 - 7 Type A projects – demonstration of practice implementation, data collection on field GHGs emissions, and analysis on cost/benefits for practice adoption and anticipated barriers.
 - 13 Type B projects – demonstration of practice implementation and/or conduct analysis on cost/benefits for adoption of the proposed practice(s) and anticipated barriers (optional).
- Projects that provide benefits to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers
 - 5 projects totaling \$647,149.20
 - 25.0% of awarded projects, 21.8% of awarded dollars
- Projects that provide benefits to AB1550 Priority Populations
 - 1 project totaling \$98,243.64
 - 5.0% of awarded projects, 3.3% of awarded dollars

2020 HSP DEMONSTRATION AWARDED PROJECTS – PRACTICES TO BE DEMONSTRATED

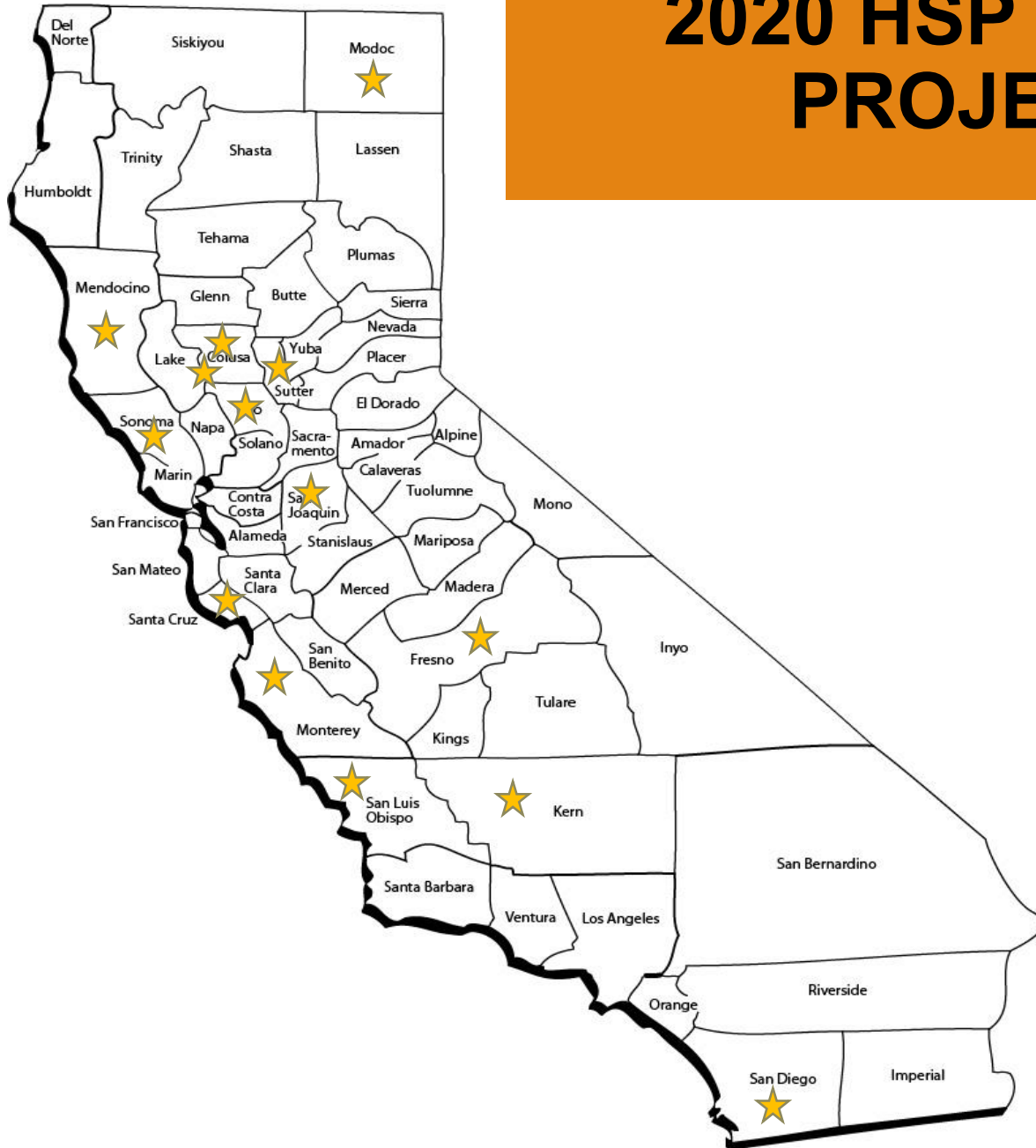


14 Practices to be demonstrated

- 9 projects will demonstrate implementation of multiple practices
- 4 Projects will demonstrate implementation of Additional Practices and collect data for Model estimation of GHG reduction benefits and development of implementation standards.

*Additional practices – Implementation standards (CPS) and model estimation of GHG reduction benefits from practice implementation are currently not available. Therefore, only Demonstration Type A projects are eligible to implement these practices.

2020 HSP DEMONSTRATION AWARDED PROJECTS – PROJECT LOCATIONS



County	Number of Projects
Colusa	3
Fresno	2
Glenn	1
Kern	1
Mendocino	1
Modoc	1
Monterey	3
San Diego	1
San Joaquin	1
San Luis Obispo	1
Santa Cruz	1
Sonoma	2
Sutter	1
Yolo	3

2 projects have demonstration sites in 2 counties.

Thank you!

Questions?

Contact us:
CDFA.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov



Agenda Item 9

Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Program updates

AB 2377 Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Grants

Update to the Environmental Farming
Act Science Advisory Panel

October 15, 2020

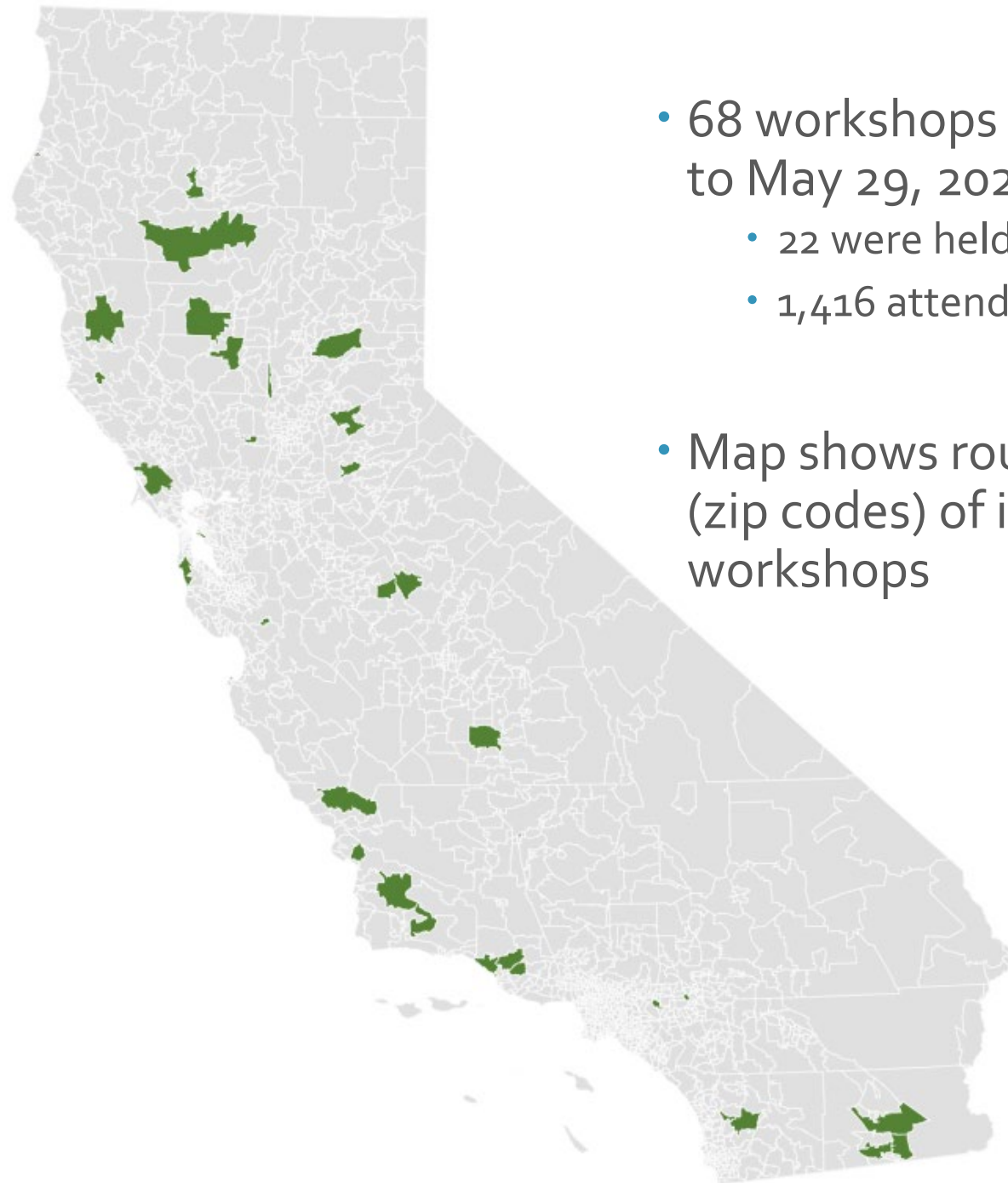


Outcomes for Quarters 1 & 2

	AMMP	HSP	Total
Individuals Assisted	41	1,125	1,166
Applications Submitted	23	324	347
SDFR Individuals Assisted	11	166	177
Farming < 500 Acres Assisted	20	723	743
Non-English Speakers	0	107	107
Provided Computer Access	12	68	80
Priority Population Individuals	13	235	248

- 33 Organizations
- Assistance provided in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hmong, Portuguese
- Total Invoiced: \$728,592
- Total Awarded: \$2,139,360 for 3 years

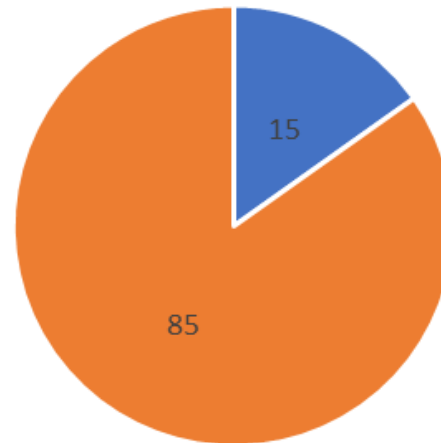
Outreach Workshops



- 68 workshops from January 10 to May 29, 2020
 - 22 were held as webinars
 - 1,416 attendees
- Map shows rough locations (zip codes) of in-person workshops

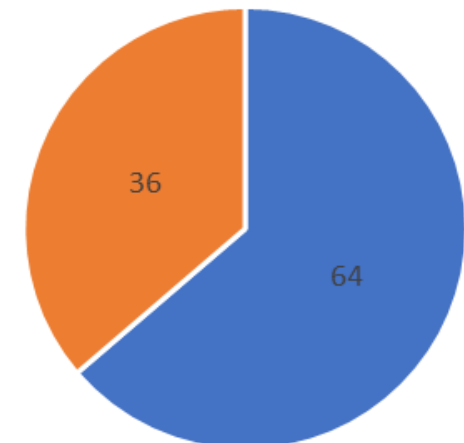
AB 2377 Priorities

Percent of Individuals Assisted
Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers



■ SDFR ■ non SDFR

Percent of Individuals Assisted
Farming <500 Acres



■ <500 acres ■ >500 acres

Annual Information Sharing and Feedback Meeting

AB 2377 calls for CDFA to support “annual information sharing among technical assistance providers, the department, and other relevant stakeholders for the continuous improvement of programmatic guidelines, application processes, and relevant climate change and agricultural research.”

OEFI sent a survey to all TAPs at end of September to:

- Collect and organize feedback on the latest CSA solicitations
- Collect feedback on TAP grant management procedures
- Identify topics of interest for information sharing meeting
- Collect preference for the format of the remote meeting

Responses due by October 12. OEFI will share results of survey with TAPs and present to EFA SAP.

Thank you!



<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/technical/index.html>

Agenda Item 10

Public Comments

Agenda Item 11

Next Meeting and Location

Date: January 14, 2021

Location: Remote Attendance