

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



MEETING AGENDA

March 16, 2017

Public Meeting

9:30 AM to 4 PM

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Main Auditorium

1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

916-654-0433

REMOTE ACCESS

Webinar information

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3356381670702999810>

Webinar ID: 706-634-715

Please note the webinar is on listen-only mode. For verbal questions and comments, please attend the meeting in person. An opportunity to provide written comments following the meeting will be provided.

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

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

EFA SAP MEMBERSHIP

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

Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Member and Chair

David Bunn, PhD, Resources Agency, DOC, Member	Jocelyn Bridson, MSc, Rio Farms, Member
Emily Wimberger, CalEPA, ARB, Member	Jeff Dlott, PhD, SureHarvest, Member
Vicky Dawley, Tehama RCD, Member	Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm, Member
Scott Couch, CalEPA, State Water Board, Member	Julie Alvis, Resources Agency, Member
Luana Kiger, MSc, Subject Matter Expert	
Doug Parker, PhD, Subject Matter Expert	

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| 1. Introductions | Chair Cameron |
| 2. Minutes from previous meeting | Chair Cameron |
| 3. The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on overall program• Update on current solicitation | Scott Weeks (CDFA) |
| 4. Post-project SWEET quantification of GHGs and water savings
PowWow Energy | Olivier Jerphangnon (MSc),
PowWow Energy |
| 5. Healthy Soils Program (HSP) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates to proposed programmatic framework• Public comments to-date | Geetika Joshi, PhD (CDFA) |
| 6. ARB quantification methodologies for the CDFA HSP | Matthew Harrison, MSc (ARB)
Bonnie Soriano, Msc (ARB) |
| 7. USDA NRCS Comet-Planner update 2.0 | Adam Chambers, PhD (USDA NRCS) |
| 8. Public comment | Chair Cameron |
| 9. Next meeting and location | Chair Cameron |

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

All meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation as defined by the American with Disabilities Act, or if you have questions regarding this public meeting, please contact Amrith Gunasekara at (916) 654-0433.

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

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

CDFA Auditorium
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA

January 19, 2017
9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Panel Members

Don Cameron (Chair and Member)
Julie Alvis (Member)
Jocelyn Bridson, M.Sc., (Member)
Dr. David Bunn (Bruce Gwynne) (Natural Resources Agency) (Member)
Scott Couch (Member)
Vicky Dawley (Member)
Dr. Jeff Dlott (Member)
Judith Redmond (Member)
Dr. Emily Wimberger (Member)
Luana Kiger (Subject Matter Expert)
Karen Ross, Secretary, CDFA

State Agency Staff

Bonnie Soriano (ARB)
Benjamin Nicholson (ARB)
Matthew Harrison (ARB)
Amrith Gunasekara, PhD., CDFA
Geetika Joshi, PhD., CDFA
Carolyn Cook, MSc. CDFA
Scott Weeks, CDFA

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by the Chair, Mr. Don Cameron. Introductions were made. Present at the meeting were all the members noted above under “Panel Members”. A quorum was established. This was the first meeting with the new and existing members following the expansion of the Science Panel as memorialized in SB 859 (2016).

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Welcome message by Secretary Ross

Secretary Ross was present to welcome the new members, thank the existing members for their work on the panel and provide an overview of her vision in further developing novel programs to assist California growers implement conservation management practices that reduce greenhouse gases and provide numerous other ecosystem services.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Minutes

Chairman Cameron introduced the minutes from the August 26 and November 18, 2016 meetings. A motion was made by Ms. Bridson to accept the minutes as presented by CDFA staff and the motion was seconded by Mr. Gwynne representing Mr. Bunn. The motion was moved by all members present and accepted without further changes.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - SWEEP (State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program)

Mr. Scott Weeks provided an update on the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). He noted recent developments with the upcoming request for applications anticipated for release at the end of January, 2017. Updates to the program include a reduced maximum grant award of \$100,000 (reduced from \$200,000 in previous rounds due to less total funds available for the next solicitation), an updated GHG Calculator tool and for the first-time, the availability of a customized-SWEEP specific irrigation water savings assessment calculator. The updates to the calculators were in response to stakeholder feedback following the previous rounds of SWEEP particularly to addressing “before” project implementation and “after” project implementation water savings calculations. Application requirements for the next solicitation, a timeline of activities and the availability of additional technical assistance workshops were presented to the panel members; Staff and Dr. Gunasekara facilitated questions from the members.

DWR-CDFA Joint Pilot Project

Dr. Martin Berbach of the Department of Water Resources provided an update on the status of the DWR-CDFA joint pilot program; an effort to combine funding and benefits from Proposition 1 and SWEEP. The program intends to demonstrate the multiple benefits that can be achieved through improvements in surface water conveyance combined with on-farm water efficient irrigation. DWR is making up to \$3 million in grant funds available to agricultural water suppliers to make improvements to a surface water conveyance line that will facilitate water efficiencies. CDFA will also provide up to \$3 million in SWEEP funding to farmers that receive water from the improved conveyance system. CDFA and DWR worked closely with the California Air Resources Board on a GHG Quantification Methodology specific to this program that would estimate the net GHG impacts of the conveyance and farm components. The joint request for grant proposals was released on January 17, 2017 with a closing date on April 21, 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - Healthy Soils Program

Dr. Joshi provided a funding update for the Healthy Soils Incentive Program; CDFA received \$7.5M from the 2016-17 budget to develop and administer this program. The Healthy Soils Program will be designed to provide incentives to farms and ranchers to build carbon and reduce greenhouse gases on agricultural lands. The program will include a list of USDA NRCS practices that have quantified greenhouse gas reductions so growers could choose which practice to implement and obtain financial incentives for its implementation through the CDFA Healthy Soils Program. Discussion ensued including comments from the Science Panel members. A public comment period was opened that extends to March 1, 2017, on the proposed framework.

ARB Quantification Methodology

Mr. Matthew Harrison from ARB provided details on the approach taken to develop a GHG reduction quantification methodology to support the Healthy Soils Program. He noted the

process typically followed at ARB for such programs and gave an update on the modeling methods being evaluated by their team: DNDC model, USDA GHG emissions methodology “Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Agriculture and Forestry” and USDA’s Comet Planner tool. Discussion ensued including comments from the Science Panel members.

AGENDA ITEM 7 and 8 – Public Comment and future meetings

Public comment was facilitated followed by discussion. The date and location of the next meeting is March 16, 2017 and will be in Sacramento, California.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amrith Gunasekara, Ph.D.

Date

PROCEDURES FOR THE
CANNELLA ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL
(Revised 3/16/2017)

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

PANEL STRUCTURE

1.1 Membership

As provided by Section 568, the Panel shall: 1) Consist of ~~five-nine~~ members.; 2) Five members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, with at least two members having a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of agriculture and shall represent production agriculture, at least one of these members shall have a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of agriculture and shall represent production agriculture; at least one member shall have training and field experience in on-farm management practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, or both;; at least one member shall be certified as a producer pursuant to the federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. Sec. 6501 et seq.); and at least one member shall have technical expertise in agricultural conservation planning and management.; 3) Two members shall be appointed by the Secretary for Environmental Protection, with one member having a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of human health or environmental science, and one shall have expertise in greenhouse gas emissions reductions practices related to agriculture. Aand 4) Two members who have a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of resource management shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, with one member additionally having expertise in climate change adaptation and climate change impacts in the agricultural sector. shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency with a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of human health or environmental science; one member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Resource Agency with a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of resource management; and 3) be highly qualified and professionally active or engaged in the conduct of scientific research.

In accordance with Section 568 the secretary may also appoint, in consultation with the panel, ex officio nonvoting members to the panel and the panel may establish ad hoc committees, which may include professionals, scientists, or representatives of nongovernmental entities, to assist it in performing its functions.

1.2 Terms

Of the members first appointed to the Panel, two shall serve for a term of two years and three shall serve for a term of three years, as determined by lot.

Thereafter, members shall be appointed for a term of three years. Any variances which occur shall be filled for the remaining unexpired term.

1.3 Vacancies

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

1.4 Officers

The permanent officers of the [CommitteePanel](#) shall be: Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The [CommitteePanel](#) may from time to time create additional officers with such titles and duties as it may assign.

1.5 Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the [CommitteePanel](#), and shall serve as the principal spokesperson for the [CommitteePanel](#).

1.6 Vice Chairperson

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

1.7 Election of Panel Officers

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

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1.8 Ad Hoc Committees

As defined in Section 568 (c), the [Pp](#)panel may establish ad hoc committees, which may include professionals, scientists, or representatives of nongovernmental entities, to assist it in performing its functions~~include professionals or scientists, to assist it in performing its functions.~~

II. AD HOC COMMITTEES

2.1 Membership

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

2.2 Quorums

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

Once a quorum has been established and a meeting has commenced, a

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

2.3 Minutes

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

III. PANEL MEETINGS

3.1 Meetings

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

3.2 Notice of Meetings

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

3.3 Public Meetings

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

3.4 Panel Action

A quorum for the conduct of Panel business shall be a majority of Panel Members plus one [~~four-six~~ of the [fivenine](#)-member Panel].

3.5 Place of Meetings

Meetings shall be held as specified in the official meeting notice.

3.6 Minutes

The Panel shall keep meeting minutes and shall make approved minutes available to the public in a timely manner.

IV. PANEL COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Public Communications

The Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture shall be [the Department's liaison to the panel and](#) official spokesperson for the Panel [in the Department](#).

4.2 Communications with the Department

While any Panel member may communicate with the Department, official communications from the Panel shall be sent by the Science Advisor.

4.3 Communication to Panel Members

In recognition of the Panel's broad responsibilities, each member of the Panel shall have the responsibility to maintain lines of communication with his/her appointing agency.

4.4 Reports to Committee from Department

The Department will furnish the Panel with information and reports reasonably necessary to allow the Panel to perform its advisory role.

4.5 Conflict of Interest Notice

Panel members are required to complete Form 700 documentation. Panel members will recuse themselves from voting on certain actions if they feel there is a conflict of interest.

V. FUNCTION OF THE PANEL

5.1 Enumeration of Functions

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

VI. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

6.1 Compensation and Reimbursements

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