

**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

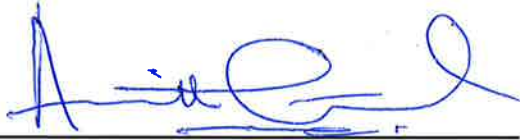
Mr. Matthew Harrison from ARB provided details on the approach taken to develop a GHG reduction quantification methodology to support the Healthy Soils Program. He noted the

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