

## **Invitation for Public Comment Establishment of Soil Organic Carbon Map for California**

### Introduction

The [California Biodiversity Initiative: A Roadmap for Protecting the State's Natural Heritage](#) (2018) calls for the state of California to undertake a series of actions to secure the future of California's biodiversity.

One of the key actions for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is the establishment of a soil carbon map of California to serve as an indicator of soil health, which is key to ecosystem health and maintenance of biodiversity. This action was also included as an item in California's 2019/2020 Budget.

### Goals

#### 1. Develop a soil carbon map for state of California

California seeks to establish and maintain a soil carbon map. The purpose of the map is to serve as an indicator of soil health as California takes multiple actions to sequester carbon in agricultural soils as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CDFA endeavors to develop a resource that will be broadly useful for the state.

#### 2. Develop soil health data repository system

CDFA's [Healthy Soils Program](#) has awarded funding to California farmers and ranchers who have applied to the program to implement conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs), and improve soil health. Awardees are required to submit soil sample results to CDFA prior to implementation of practices subsequently annually after the practices were implemented, for up to 3 years. CDFA seeks to develop a data repository system for soils data submitted and make the data publicly available to monitor progress toward soil carbon sequestration.

### Opportunity for Public Comment

In order to fulfill the objectives of 1) development of a soil organic carbon map, and 2) a soils data repository system, CDFA invites stakeholders to participate in a webinar to provide input and help define the scope of work needed to fulfill the objectives. CDFA requests feedback on the following questions:

- Which existing maps/data sets can be used as baseline for soil organic carbon?
- USDA NRCS has developed several maps that may serve the purpose above; stakeholder feedback on the use of these is encouraged.
- What scale is needed for the map to meet its objective of serving as an indicator of soil health?
- Should CDFA develop a statewide map or focus on agricultural production areas?
- What components and layers should the map includes?
- What is appropriate soil depth for the map (ex: 30 cm)?

- What are other issues and concerns?
- Are there recommendations on data standards and quality assurance?
- What would stakeholders like to use this map for?
- What are the needs for this tool beyond its use by governmental agencies?
- What can stakeholders contribute?

**Written Comment Period - May 7, 2020 – May 21, 2020**

Comments should be submitted by e-mail to [cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov) by 5:00 pm PT, May 21, 2020.