

Technical Advisory Council

Item 5: Climate Resilience Strategy for California Agriculture

Oct. 25, 2024

Overview

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is embarking on the creation of a “Climate Resilience Strategy for California Agriculture.” Not only has this not been done before, but [California Ag Vision 2030: Ag Vision for the Next Decade](#) identifies its top priority as “Fostering climate smart, resilient, regenerative food systems.” This means supporting efforts that improve agriculture’s effect on the environment, encourage wise stewardship of water and natural resources, eliminate waste and are regenerative, e.g. - practices that enhance ecosystems and improve the land. This work will build on a variety of past state documents and efforts.

Agriculture in California is governed by myriad state and local agencies. Each has authority over different aspects of California agriculture, e.g. water, air quality, energy, pest and disease prevention. Those interested in understanding the state’s action related to climate change and agriculture must conduct research across many agencies and departments. This document aims to bring agricultural climate action into one space, both to make it easier to understand what is happening, but also to help identify gaps.

The document seeks to describe the challenges posed to agriculture by climate change to provide a comprehensive understanding of the threats to our food system and outline the state’s response, as well as set out a vision for a sustainable, equitable, thriving food system. So far, the draft document includes chapters on water resources, warming temperatures/extreme heat, land use, soil health, animal health, dairy and ranching sustainability, biodiversity, pest pressure, labor and workforce development, economic development, and national and international engagement actions.

Key Priorities

- Educate the public and stakeholders about the risks to agriculture posed by climate change
- Explain existing efforts that improve climate resilience and reduce climate risks from wildfire, drought, flood, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events.
- Support projects or actions that address the greatest climate risks to California agriculture, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.
- Identify gaps in climate resilience actions related to agriculture.
- Support equitable outcomes.

Timeline

- Fall 2024 - Interagency review of draft strategy
- Spring 2025 – Public comment and revision
- Summer 2025 – Document finalized

Discussion Questions

- What actions is your agency or organization taking related to climate change and agriculture that should be included?
- Is there interest from the TAC to have more touchpoints with this strategy to better understand agricultural resilience planning and implementation needs?