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Climate Innovation Program

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

November 29, 2022

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: 22-ERDD-02 – Climate Innovation Program

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) appreciates the opportunity to partner with the California Energy Commission (CEC) on the Climate Innovation Program. CDFA looks forward to working with the CEC in identifying the allowable agricultural related investments within the program as it relates to “regenerative agriculture”, as defined by AB 209 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 251, Statutes 2022).

In the coming months, the California State Board of Food and Agriculture (Board) will begin a public process for defining a framework for the term “regenerative agriculture,” and the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel will assist that process by conducting a review of existing definitions and literature to help determine common science-based practices resulting in performance outcomes, such as net-zero emissions, that reflect California’s climate, working lands and sustainable agricultural priorities.

Additionally, CDFA would like to highlight the immense opportunity this program could provide for farmers by investing in resilient energy sources. Investments in energy efficiency for California’s agriculture industry can reduce overall input costs for farmers, while improving outcomes for the environment and communities.

CDFA respectfully suggests the Board’s process be leveraged to help guide investments in the Climate Innovation Program for regenerative agriculture, and CDFA looks forward to staying lockstep with CEC as the Board aims to finish defining the framework for “regenerative agriculture” by the summer of 2023.

Yours truly,

Karen Ross
Secretary

