

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program
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Document Title:	Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program Guidelines
Description:	Resolution No: 18-1107-15
Filer:	Cody Goldthrite
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR
AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Docket No. 18-MISC-03

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR
AGRICULTURE PROGRAM
GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, the Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program, funded by Assembly Bill 109 (Ting, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2017) and Senate Bill 856 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 30, Statutes of 2018) and administered by the California Energy Commission, provides grants for the installation of onsite renewable energy technology on agricultural operations in California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing energy reliability, reducing demand for grid electricity and fossil fuels, and providing additional co-benefits to local communities; and

WHEREAS, funding for the program comes from the California Climate Investments initiative (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) and all funded projects must reduce greenhouse gas emissions and further the purposes of Assembly Bill 32 (Nunez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and related statutes; and

WHEREAS, the *Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program Guidelines (REAP Guidelines)*, developed pursuant to Assembly Bill 109, Senate Bill 856 and Public Resources Code section 25218(e), provides details on how the California Energy Commission will administer the program and include information on program design, project selection and administrative requirements; and

WHEREAS, the development of the *REAP Guidelines* has benefitted from three public workshops, meetings with State agencies and industry associations implementing programs addressing the needs of the agricultural community, as well as, written comments submitted by the public and stakeholders to the docket; and

WHEREAS, after considering all the materials and comments received, the California Energy Commission staff, with guidance and input from Lead Commissioner for Renewables Commissioner Hochschild, released the latest draft of the *REAP Guidelines* on October 29, 2018. The *REAP Guidelines* set forth the types of projects eligible for funding and administrative requirements; and

WHEREAS, the California Energy Commission staff will develop solicitations and grants in the ensuing fiscal years to implement the Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program consistent with the *REAP Guidelines*; and

WHEREAS, the California Energy Commission has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to the adoption of the *REAP Guidelines*, and concludes that the *REAP Guidelines* is exempt from CEQA, either because it fits within activities categorically exempt from CEQA as a “actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state law or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment” (14 California Code of Regulations section 15308)) or because the action is exempt under the “common sense” exception (14 California Code of Regulations section 15061(b)(3)). The *REAP Guidelines* proposes funding for categories of activities and other administrative procedures, but decisions to fund specific projects will be made by California Energy Commission at a future date through a competitive solicitation process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the California Energy Commission hereby finds the adoption of the *REAP Guidelines* to be exempt from CEQA, under categorical exemption California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15308, actions by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment, and the common sense exemption, adopts the *REAP Guidelines* with any errata approved at the November 7, 2018 Business Meeting, and authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to implement the Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program consistent with the *REAP Guidelines*.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Energy Commission held on November 7, 2018.

AYE: Weisenmiller, Douglas, McAllister, Scott
NAY: None
ABSENT: Hochschild
ABSTAIN: None

Original Signed by:

Cody Goldthrite
Secretariat