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*June 19, 2013
Happy Solstice!*

Governor & Legislative Leaders Cut Budget Deal, Delay Climate Investments

Despite Governor Brown's recent strong words of warning that climate change will soon be irreversible, the administration and legislative leaders decided to wait another day to invest in climate change solutions. In a budget deal finalized last week, \$500 million of the cap-and-trade auction proceeds will be loaned to the state's General Fund to be paid back to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund sometime in the future.



The auction proceeds from the cap-and-trade program are intended to be invested in activities that further the state's climate change goals: reducing greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs and delivering additional benefits like improved air and water quality and greater resilience to a changing climate. [CalCAN supports investments](#) in sustainable agricultural solutions to climate change, including farmland

conservation and sustainable agricultural practices that reduce GHG emissions and sequester carbon.

In a recent [opinion column in the Modesto Bee](#), organic dairy and almond producer and CalCAN farmer advisor Ward Burroughs said, “There is no time to waste in unleashing the potential for agriculture to help slow climate change. All eyes are on California as it rolls out its cap-and-trade program, and we have the chance to be a model for others around the world for taking bold and creative action.”

In May, the Governor’s administration released their [three-year investment plan](#) for the auction proceeds, which included many of our top priorities. However, he did not see fit to start making those investments this year.

The loan of the cap-and-trade funds happened despite state budget [projections from the Legislative Analyst Office](#) of \$3.2 billion in additional revenue to the state in FY 2013-14. The Governor took a more fiscally conservative approach to the budget, calling for a budget that relied on more constrained income projections. Such an approach, however, ignores the job creating potential of investing in climate solutions like renewable energy, water use efficiency, and more, and delays the state’s ability to reap the many benefits of protecting our resources, like farmland, from development, which only spurs greater GHG emissions.

The Governor and the legislature will return to the issue in January as the 2014/15 state budget is proposed. CalCAN will continue to advocate for investing in sustainable agricultural solutions to climate change.

Meanwhile, please [drop us an email](#) with your best ideas for how to invest in climate solutions in agriculture. We’ll compile and post them here.

CalCAN is Hiring a Policy Associate

The Policy Associate will work closely with CalCAN’s Policy Director to develop and implement CalCAN’s priority policy initiatives. Primary areas of responsibility include:

- Develop and implement policy campaigns on sustainable agriculture and climate change issues, especially related to supporting on-farm renewable energy production and energy efficiency measures for small and mid-scale producers and state investment in agricultural solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Advocate before the state legislature, state agencies and departments, particularly the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Conservation, California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission
- Assist with federal farm bill coordination as a partner in the California Caucus of the National Sustainable Agriculture

Coalition.

- Draft documents, including legislative language, policy papers, testimony, advocacy materials, and rulemaking comments relating to programs and policies that address climate change and agriculture issues
- Assist with grassroots and grasstops outreach
- Write policy blogs and contributions to CalCAN's monthly newsletter

More information on the position and how to apply is available on our [website](#).

Help Improve the House Farm Bill Version!

The U.S. House of Representatives is poised to take a giant step backwards – away from a healthy, family farm-based, sustainable food system and towards unlimited subsidies for mega-farms and corporate agri-business and reduced investments in organic and sustainable farming.

With your help last month we made some big progress in getting farm policy back on track in the Senate and now it's time to ensure the House of Representatives does the same. Here's what you need to know:

Amendments to support:

Rep. Fortenberry's (R-NE) amendment #93 puts a cap on commodity subsidy payments and closes loopholes that allow mega-farms to collect unlimited payments. Rep. Ribble's (R-WI) amendment #63 would restore funding for two key programs that keep the organic sector running smoothly for farmers and consumers.

Amendment to oppose:

Rep. McClintock's (R-CA) amendment #92 eliminates funding for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program which has provided \$20 million to expand direct marketing opportunities for California producers.

The House will start voting today – now is the time to make your voice heard!

Calling is easy - here's how:

Call the House switchboard and ask for your Representative: (202) 225-3121. If you don't know the name of your Representative, find them [here](#).

Leave a message like this one with the person who answers the phone:

"Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a constituent and a voter (and tell them if you're a farmer!). I would like to leave a message for Representative _____'s agriculture staffer. Can you take a message for me, please? The message is: I urge the Representative to support three key amendments during farm bill floor debate this week:

Fortenberry #93 for subsidy reform and Ribble #63 for organics. I also urge the Representative to oppose McClintock #92 which eliminates funding for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. Congress needs to get our farm policy back on track by reforming subsidies and investing in a more sustainable future. Thank you.”

Every call makes a difference! [Let us know you called.](#)

CalCAN Vineyard Tour Focused on Adaptation Tools

On May 16th, CalCAN organized a farm field day at Preston Vineyards in Healdsburg called “Building Soil & Biodiversity for Climate Change Resilience.” The staff development workshop was attended by 25 farm advisors from Resource Conservation Districts, Coop Extension and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Alan Flint from the US Geological Service provided projections of climate change impacts on North Coast vineyards. Rex Dufour, NCAT/ATTRA, described methods for building organic matter in soil. Morgan Doran from UC Coop Extension described the “Vines & Ovines” program he is researching to control weeds and build soil fertility and organic matter in vineyards. Finally, Lou Preston gave a farm tour of their diverse operation at Preston Vineyards.

Here are two sample comments from participants:

“It was great to see the practices in action (like the hedgerows) and to hear a real grower talk about their challenges and solutions.”

“The workshop was wonderful and I liked that we had some presentations and then a field element. I think I understand the generalities of promoting diversity and resiliency in the agricultural landscape... and I love it.... I just don't always feel confident that this will be enough for growers to adapt to climate change impacts.”



California Association of RCDs: Call for Presentations

The [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#) (CARCD) is getting ready for its annual meeting, held this year on Nov. 13 – 16 in Napa. The theme is "The Great Balancing Act: Meeting Rural and Urban Resource Needs." Given the growing demands of an increasing population, California's resources are at a tipping point. The essentials needed to sustain life and livelihood (clean water, clean air, food, fiber, land) are under increasing pressure. By working with each other, we can bring balance to these growing and growingly contentious problems. By creating a framework that is scientifically sound and systematic, we can find quantifiable, practical solutions that are in balance with the people, the land and the legacy that is California.

CARCD is inviting abstracts for 15-45 minute presentations of interest to RCDs and partners, due by June 25, 2013. For more information click [here](#).

Rancher to Rancher Field Day & Grazing Trials



Adapted from the [CA Rangeland Conservation Coalition](#)

On April 12th, more than 30 ranchers from all over California gathered at two ranches near Hollister Hills to explore ways of increasing grass production, resiliency, and profitability on their ranches. Joe Morris and JP Thompson demonstrated how they move their herd horseback from one pasture to another, using different animal densities to encourage trampling and grazing to produce desired effects for each pasture.

The field day organizers proposed a plan to trial these practices on 100 ranches throughout the Central Coast, to see if they work as well in California as they have been found to do in other parts of the world. The ranch trials would be simple, no risk, and offer the opportunity for ranchers to learn rapidly from each other. The Rancher to Rancher project is guided by ranchers, with support from the Cachuma

Resource Conservation District.

If you are interested in participating in these grazing trials, or for more information, please contact [Joe Morris](#) or [Peter Donovan](#).

A Rancher to Rancher workshop is being held on June 22nd in Sonoma County. For information, click [here](#).

Jobs

FarmLink — Loan Officer

The Loan Officer will take a critical implementation and leadership role in California FarmLink's rapidly growing farm loan program. Reporting to the part-time Director of Lending, the Loan Officer is a new position that will be the only full-time dedicated FTE to the loan program and will have primary responsibility for business development, managing a pipeline of potential borrowers, underwriting loan requests, and managing a portfolio of loans. This is an exciting opportunity for a seasoned small business or agricultural lender that wants to wear multiple hats, get in on the ground floor of an exciting farm loan program, and work for a growing, mission-driven organization. For more information, click [here](#).

Environmental Defense Fund — Agriculture Project Analyst, Working Lands

The Project Analyst shall manage and/or support the Director with the suite of agriculture GHG projects. The Project Analyst will help set the goals, objectives and strategies and develop and track work plans and manage relationships and collaborating activities with partners, including consultants. For more information, click [here](#).

Ecological Farming Association — EcoFarm Conference Production Assistant

The ideal candidate will have relevant experience and demonstrated competency in sponsor/donor solicitation and/or sales, event coordination, food service and/or procurement, and office experience. This position requires an energetic, detail-oriented, and organized individual who can be nimble with multiple projects and take direction. For more information, click [here](#).

Ecological Farming Association — Communications Coordinator

The ideal candidate will have leadership experience in ecological agriculture and in directing strategic communications planning, implementation, and design. For more information, click [here](#).

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