



Show your support for climate-friendly farming... Call your Senator and Assemblymember today!



Governor Brown and the state legislature are deciding the future of state investments to address climate change and avoid its worst impacts.

On May 13th, Governor Brown released his revised budget for fiscal year 2014-15. We are pleased he continues to call for funding for sustainable agriculture and farmland conservation in the state's investments of cap-and-trade proceeds.

Next, the legislature weighs in. They must pass a budget by mid-June for the Governor's approval. There are several competing ideas about how to spend cap-and-trade proceeds, proposals that change daily and some of which may not include investments in agriculture.

Your elected representatives need to hear from you about the importance of including agriculture in the final budget.

Can you take two minutes to leave messages with the offices of your Assemblymember and Senator? It's quick, easy and it makes a difference.

To take action:

1. Find the Sacramento phone numbers for both your Senator and Assemblymember here: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

2. Call and ask for the staff person who handles the budget. Leave this suggested message:

"I am [*your name*] and I live in [*city or town*]. I am calling to urge [*elected representative's name*] to support Governor Brown's budget proposal that includes cap and trade investments in sustainable agriculture and farmland conservation. We need to support farmers and ranchers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon, producing clean energy and improving water and energy efficiency. Any cap and trade proposal must include investments in agricultural solutions to climate change."

3. Drop us an email to let us know you called: info@calclimateag.org

Thank you for making your voice heard!

— The CalCAN team

Background:

California's cap-and-trade program has been operating since November 2012 and revenue from the allowance auctions and is expected to raise billions of dollars in the coming years. In his 2014-15 budget Governor Brown included a total allocation of \$850 million from the state's cap-and-trade program. While the bulk of the cap-and-trade allocations in the Governor's proposal are for high-speed rail, clean transportation and energy efficiency, some funds will also go towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions by investing in farmland preservation and agricultural management strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cut energy and water use and produce on-farm renewable energy.

Some of the proposed allocations would be focused on these agricultural mitigation activities:

- \$100 million for implementation of regional Sustainable Community Strategies including agricultural land preservation as a component of integrated land use and transportation projects that reduce GHG emissions
- \$20 million for agricultural management strategies that improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- \$10 million in agricultural water use efficiency (allocated under the drought package already signed into law by the Governor)

We see this budget proposal as a good first step towards investing in sustainable agricultural climate solutions that benefit farmers, our environment and all Californians. For more details on CalCAN's recommendations for investments in climate-friendly farming practices, see <http://calclimateag.org/cap-and-trade-budget/>.

Agriculture's Role in Climate Protection:

California agriculture is uniquely positioned to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase carbon sequestration. Sustainable agricultural solutions to climate change can preserve and enhance carbon stores in soils and woody biomass, generate renewable energy and reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions. Farmland conservation is also an essential climate mitigation strategy. Farms and ranches provide significant carbon sinks and have much lower GHG emissions compared with urban areas.

For more information on the potential for addressing climate change with sustainable agriculture

practices, see CalCAN's fact sheet: <http://calclimateag.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Benefits-fact-sheet.pdf>.

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