



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Brown Invests in Sustainable Agricultural Climate Solutions in State Budget**

Sacramento, CA — Farmers and sustainable agriculture advocates are encouraged by the investment in climate-friendly agricultural practices and farmland conservation in Governor Brown's budget draft for fiscal year 2014/15, released this morning.

The budget includes a total allocation of \$850 million from the state's cap-and-trade program, including \$100 million of the \$500 million the Governor borrowed last year from the program. While the bulk of the allocations go to high-speed rail, clean transportation and energy efficiency, cap-and-trade investments will also go towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions by investing farmland conservation and agricultural management strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cut energy and water use and sequester carbon in soil.

"California farmers have real climate solutions to offer," said Jeanne Merrill, CalCAN Policy Director. "We are pleased that Governor Brown recognizes the importance of investing in sustainable agricultural solutions that are win-win solutions that benefit farmers, our environment and all Californians."

Under the proposed budget, the spending categories that will benefit farmers are as follows:

- \$100 million to implementing regional Sustainable Community Strategies that include agricultural land preservation as a component of integrated land use and transportation planning
- \$50 million for water infrastructure and watershed projects, which will support water use efficiency in agriculture and watershed protection
- \$20 million for agricultural management strategies that improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

"This is good news in terms of farmland conservation which is critical for sustaining California food production and the long-term viability of family farms," said Dave Runsten, Policy Director of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers.

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*The California Climate and Agriculture Network is a coalition of sustainable agriculture and farmer member groups working on the nexus of climate change and agriculture policy issues.*

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