CLIMATE PLANNING
AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS
SAN DIEGO

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THE VOICE OF LOCAL FARMERS
CLIMATE PLANNING

- County of San Diego Climate Action Plan
  - Ag GHG emissions account for just 5% of region total
  - Incentive based reduction programs (pumps, tractors)
  - Recognition of value of preservation of agricultural lands
  - Call for carbon farming collaborations
STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- Collaborative action launch
  - San Diego Food System Alliance
  - San Diego County Farm Bureau
  - Batra Ecological Strategies
- Climate Friendly Farming Practices Report
- Union-Tribune commentary
- Summary publication
STRATEGIES

- Slow the loss of orchards to maintain carbon sequestration value
- Incentives for carbon farming practices
- Ease barriers to entry for new farmers
TASKFORCE

- San Diego County Carbon Farming Taskforce
  - Farmers
  - NGO’s
  - Government agencies
  - UC
  - Private companies
  - Public utilities
San Diego County Agriculture is a key partner in developing a resilient, climate friendly region
TASKFORCE ACTION

- “Kickoff” Workshop
- Stakeholder mapping
- Inventory assessment of projects and funding
- Taskforce member commitments
- Launch Action Plan development
- Monthly call-in meetings
SOCAL CLIMATE IMPACTS ON FARMERS

- Water supply
- Warmer temperatures
- Extreme heat events
- Fire
WATER SUPPLY

- Dependent on imported water
- Colorado River is extreme concern
- Diversification of supply is expensive
- Already at $2000 per acre foot
- Rainy season wet/dry swings
WARMER TEMPERATURES

- Added irrigation to meet plant needs
  - Cost
  - Water quality
- Yet-to-be-known impacts on fruit set
- Flowering nursery crop selections
EXTREME HEAT EVENTS

- Heavy irrigation preceding heat
- Leaf burning
- Fruit drop and loss of flowers for next crop
- Avocado loss estimated at 140,000,000 pounds from July 2018 heat event
- Farm worker safety
FIRE

- Events becoming more frequent
- Farms imbedded in fire-prone areas
- Priority on urban structures for protection
- Post-fire farm access
WATER PRICING

- New sources are expensive
- Less water delivered by system means each gallon sold carries more costs
- Delta and storage fix will be expensive
- Tripling of price in 11 years
- Net impact: loss of 10,000 acres of avocados