

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

TASKFORCE VISION

San Diego County Agriculture is a key partner in developing a resilient, climate friendly region

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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