

## Natural and Working Lands Technical Advisory Committee

April 25, 2024 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Join via Zoom: <https://yolocounty.zoom.us/j/82849350600>

### NWL TAC Members

**Pelayo Alvarez**, Climate Action Commission (YCCAC) Member, Audobon Conservation Ranching Program

**Mica Bennett**, YCCAC Member

**Humberto Izquierdo**, Yolo County Department of Agriculture (*not in attendance*)

**Andrew Truman Kim**, YCCAC Member (*not in attendance*)

**Sarah Morgan**, YCCAC Ex-Officio Member, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

**Neil Muller**, M Three Ranches

**Heather Nichols**, Yolo County Resource Conservation District

**Kate Reza**, Yolo County Resource Conservation District

**Denise Sagara**, Yolo County Farm Bureau (*not in attendance*)

**Adrian Solis**, RISE Inc. (*not in attendance*)

**Scott Stone**, Yolo Land & Cattle Co. (*not in attendance*)

**Eric Willson**, Rominger Brothers Farms

### Staff Members

**Julia Olsen**, Yolo County Sustainability Analyst

**Yuridiana Pantoja**, CivicSpark Fellow

**Tess Vaccaro**, CivicSpark Fellow

**Kristen Wraithwall**, Yolo County Sustainability Manager

## AGENDA

### 1. Staff Updates

- a. Staff provided an overview of the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Proposal timeline. The proposal is a \$14 million county-wide climate agriculture program, co-led with the County of Yolo and Sacramento Air Resources Board, to fund conservation practices like composting and cover crops. A decision on EPA funding is expected by mid-July. Updates will be provided as available.

### 2. CAAP Timeline Moving Forward – May 2<sup>nd</sup> draft. Public comment period begins mid-June? July 10<sup>th</sup> public comment period

- a. Staff noted that the draft is due to for finalizing by May 2nd. They requested all final comments, questions, or track changes from the group by May 1st to allow time for compilation before the public comment period, which opens on June 7th and runs until

July 10th. The document sent to Dudek will closely reflect the draft plan without introducing new information, especially concerning NWL.

- b. A comment was made regarding the limited revision rounds with Dudek and the need for more thorough question review.

3. **Chapter 4/8 executive summary of appendix. Review Draft Natural and Working Lands CAAP Appendix**

- a. Staff walked through the CAAP chapters for review, and NWL members gave their feedback.
- b. A question was raised about the "Land Management Enhancement" section on the second page, which mentions carbon sequestration within natural communities. Clarification is needed on whether this includes both natural and working lands or only natural lands, as the term "natural communities" lacks a clear definition.
  - i. Additionally, it was noted to include the Williamson Act in relevant sections.
- c. A comment was made about the omission of the Healthy Soils Calculator, particularly its version for composting, which is crucial for carbon sequestration efforts. The document lacks numerical data which should have been included in the practices section.
  - i. The Williamson Act was also added to the document.
- d. Question arose on the terminology for different land types, noting that the document differentiates between dry land and irrigated pasture lands in agriculture, and grasslands, which includes annual grasslands, pasture, and serpentine. It's important to clarify if "grasslands" specifically refers to non-irrigated pasture, emphasizing the irrigation distinction.
  - i. It was recommended to classify dry land pasture under 'rangeland' and include it in the broader category of 'grasslands' due to its lack of irrigation. Additionally, the term 'pasture' should be replaced with 'dryland pasture' to avoid confusion, and serpentine should be removed, as it may not exist in Yolo County.