

HEALTHIER, MORE RESILIENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

- Advancing climate smart, sustainable and resilient agriculture
- Investing in California's food system to build healthier communities
- Helping underserved farmers through an equitable economic recovery

California's recovery is underway, but we can't be satisfied with just going back to the way things were. The Governor's California Comeback Plan outlines comprehensive strategies and major investments to address the state's most stubborn challenges. Under Governor Newsom's \$100 billion plan, California will roar back from the pandemic.

California is the largest agricultural producer in the nation, and farms underpin the economy of our rural regions. The pandemic's disruptions to the food supply chain and climate-driven drought and extreme heat are posing new challenges for this sector that must be addressed head-on.

The California Comeback Plan proposes \$67.5 million to develop a healthier, more resilient and more equitable food system. Building on our leadership as the top agricultural state in the nation and a global climate leader, the Plan proposes a \$531 million package to advance climate smart agriculture, improve drought resiliency, fund alternatives to agricultural burning, increase pollinator habitat on working lands and support conservation planning to build resilience.

Supporting an equitable recovery, the Plan calls for \$42 million in new investments to support economic recovery, resiliency and high-road job growth through technical assistance to underserved farmers, farmer training and manager apprenticeships.

KEY ACTIONS FOR CREATING HEALTHIER, MORE RESILIENT FOOD AND AG SYSTEMS:

HEALTHY, RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEMS: Governor Newsom proposes \$67.5 million to develop a healthier, more resilient and more equitable food system for all Californians. This package supports a food system that provides nutritional security and education beginning in early childhood, increases food access and builds stronger local and regional supply chains through key programs:

- Farm to School Additional \$20 million investment in the California Farm to School Network for broadening the Incubator Grant Program.
- **Urban Agriculture Program** \$12 million to support urban farmers and community-based organizations in revitalizing urban food systems.
- California Nutrition Incentive Program \$15 million to continue nutrition incentives for low-income shoppers.
- **Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program** \$20 million to expand this pilot program that makes a greater variety of nutritious California-grown foods available in low-access areas.
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program \$500,000 to leverage federal funds for providing low-income seniors with access to locally grown fruits and vegetables at farmers markets.

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE: The California Comeback Plan proposes a \$531 million package to advance climate smart agriculture, improve drought resiliency, fund alternatives to agricultural burning, increase pollinator habitat on working lands and support conservation planning for a more resilient and robust agricultural system. The Plan includes the following investments:

- Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions
 (FARMER) Additional \$193 million over two years for the replacement of
 agricultural harvesting equipment, pumps and tractors to reduce greenhouse
 gas emissions.
- Alternatives to open agricultural burning \$150 million to incentivize alternatives to open agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley.
- **Healthy Soils Program** Additional \$70 million to provide grants for on-farm soil management practices that sequester carbon.
- **Livestock methane reduction** \$60 million to reduce methane emissions in dairy and livestock operations.

- **Pollinator Habitat Program** \$30 million for pollinator habitat and forage on working lands.
- Technical assistance for conservation management plans \$20 million to support the development of conservation plans for climate change mitigation and resilience and to enhance water, habitat and other resources.
- Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program \$9 million to incentivize legal legacy outdoor cannabis growers to adopt and gather data on environmental best practices.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY & HIGH-ROAD JOB GROWTH: California is committed to promoting an equitable economic recovery across the state, including rural communities, and for small and underserved producers and farmworkers. The California Comeback Plan proposes **\$42 million in new investments to support economic recovery, resiliency and high-road job growth** through technical assistance to underserved farmers, new farmer training and manager apprenticeships:

- Technical assistance program for underserved farmers Additional \$2 million for technical assistance and grants for small and underserved farmers. This builds on technical assistance funding through the UC Cooperative Extension that was previously announced.
- New and beginning farmer training and farm manager apprenticeships program \$10 million to provide training and incubator programs for new and beginning farmers, with a focus on training farmworkers.
- Fresno-Merced Future of Food (F3) Innovation Initiative \$30 million for a regional hub to stimulate innovation on sustainable agricultural production and processing, address environmental challenges and support high-quality jobs.
- **Rural economic advisor** Specialized support for the Department of Food and Agriculture to improve California's rural, agriculturally based economies.

KEY INVESTMENTS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, DROUGHT RESPONSE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE: Climate change is making droughts more common and more severe. The California Comeback Plan invests \$5.1 billion in drought support, water supply and natural landscape projects around the state and an additional \$1 billion in direct aid for Californians who have past-due water bills. In addition, the Governor's Plan includes:

- \$5 million to provide technical assistance for on-farm water use efficiency.
- \$1.5 million for drought-related economic analysis and decision-making tools for agriculture.