

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1486 (Soria)

As Amended June 10, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), to provide grants to public postsecondary educational institutions that are designated as Agricultural Experiment Stations or Agriculture Research Institutes by the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) to develop or expand research farms to improve climate resiliency.

Senate Amendments

Specify that if CDE enters into a contract or agreement with CDFA, pursuant to this bill, that it may advance payments without needing Department of General Services (DGS) approval and that funds may be used for both construction of new farms and maintaining, altering or improving existing farms.

COMMENTS

While the program requires CDE consultation with CDFA on the provision of these grants, there may be a scenario in which CDE needs to send money to CDFA and the Senate amendments ensure that these contracts or agreements are not subject to DGS approval, thus making it consistent with most interagency agreements. Moreover, it would be unwieldy and inefficient to have CDFA seek reimbursement from CDE, so this allows CDE to advance the payments.

According to the Author

"Proposition 4's research farm grants will help California's public colleges improve existing, or help start up, research farms with a focus on improving climate resiliency."

Arguments in Support

The University of California wrote in support that, "The UC looks forward to applying for Proposition 4 funding to improve climate resiliency. AB 1486 sets up a timeframe for the establishment of this grant funding. For these reasons, UC supports AB 1486."

Additionally, Sustainable Conservation opined that, "[B]y expanding the network of research farms to continue this kind of groundbreaking work, will provide additional investment in the kind of innovation that is needed to respond to the ongoing climate crisis. The practices developed by these kinds of networks will be crucial to enabling California's agricultural sector to meet sustainability challenges and continue thriving into the future."

Arguments in Opposition

None of file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill would authorize CDE to provide grants to public postsecondary educational institutions to develop or expand research farms. The Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, approved by voters as Proposition 4, provides \$15 million for this purpose. Additionally, Proposition 4 provides that 7

percent of the funds allocated for a grant program may be used to pay for the administrative costs of that program.

The CDE estimates administrative costs of \$428,000 each year and 1.0 position to provide the grants. To the extent that the set-aside from Proposition 4 is insufficient to cover these costs for the duration of the program, CDE may require future General Fund costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Any costs to the CDFA are expected to be minor and absorbable costs.

VOTES:

ASM AGRICULTURE: 8-0-0

YES: Soria, Alanis, Aguiar-Curry, Connolly, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Irwin, Ransom

ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 14-0-0

YES: Bryan, Alanis, Connolly, Ellis, Flora, Garcia, Haney, Hoover, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

YES: Wicks, Stefani, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Bauer-Kahan, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0-5

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Gipson, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia

UPDATED

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