

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2100 (Connolly) – As Amended March 25, 2026

Policy Committee: Natural Resources

Vote: 14 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to convene an interagency task force to evaluate the role of alternative manure management practices (AMMP) in achieving the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and requires CDFA to create an efficient and effective process for approving projects that manage livestock and dairy manure.

Specifically, this bill, among other things:

- 1) Requires CDFA to convene an interagency task force to evaluate the role of AMMP in achieving the goals identified in the short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP) strategy, developed pursuant to existing law, and in related state mandates, and to make findings and recommendations based on its evaluation.
- 2) Requires the task force to include representatives from the Air Resources Board (ARB), the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), and external scientific and technical experts and other stakeholders, as specified.
- 3) Requires the task force to: (a) coordinate scenario modeling of AMMP adoption within the dairy and livestock industry under different policy and funding conditions; (b) assess how AMMP can help the state meet groundwater sustainability plans, water quality plans, and nature-based climate solutions; (c) facilitate interagency data sharing, technical consultation, and identification of research needs; and (d) advise ARB on updates to its quantification methodology for the AMMP program, considering the most recent relevant data and research and impacts on equitable access.
- 4) Authorizes ARB to incorporate the task force's findings and recommendations into updates to the SLCP strategy, the 2027 Scoping Plan Update, and other planning documents.
- 5) Requires CDFA to convene relevant government agencies, as specified, with input from the regulated community, to create an efficient and effective process for approving new projects that manage livestock and dairy manure through on-farm composting or by selling or transferring manure to offsite users.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Assuming a three-year timeframe (in line with the state's 2030 SLCP targets), CDFA estimates annual costs of approximately \$325,000 (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) or General Fund) for one senior environmental scientist, contract costs, and equipment for three years to convene, support, and participate in two interagency efforts. CDFA notes it does not currently have permanent, baseline funding for staff overseeing the AMMP program in its Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability, and that it has historically relied on one-time funding to support the program; therefore, the department contends it cannot absorb the additional workload created by this bill within existing resources.
- 2) ARB estimates ongoing annual costs of approximately \$779,000 (GGRF or General Fund) for about four new staff to represent ARB in, and support the work of, the task force; develop scenario modeling of AMMP adoption within the dairy and livestock industry under different policy and funding conditions; develop assessments of how AMMP can help meet the state's working lands climate goals; incorporate the task force's findings into various documents and plans; review and update quantification methodologies, calculator tools, and reporting templates for the AMMP program to better analyze and quantify additional co-benefits like water quality and groundwater protections; consult with subject matter experts; and other related tasks.
- 3) The State Water Board estimates ongoing annual costs of approximately \$2.3 million (Waste Discharge Permit Fund, GGRF, or General Fund) to hire staff within the State Water Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) to participate in and support the efforts of the task force and model, assess, and share data regarding AMMP. The State Water Board notes its estimate is based on costs associated with its and the Regional Water Boards' participation in the Manure Recycling and Innovative Products Task Force (MRIP).

CDFA convened the MRIP to develop recommendations on how to recapture and enhance the value of dairy manure while supporting healthy soils, protecting water quality, and reducing agriculture's carbon footprint in California. The MRIP met between late 2021 and 2022, producing its final report in December 2022. According to the CDFA website, "the task force resolved to continue periodic meetings to monitor progress and efforts following the recommendations, share information on new opportunities, and to broaden the conversation." Given some of the overlap in subject matter, the timing of the MRIP's work (which largely concluded in 2022), and the State Water Board's largely consultative role in this bill (with CDFA taking the lead), it is worth considering whether the State Water Board may be able to repurpose and utilize some of its existing staff resources for some or all of the implementation workload associated with this bill.

- 4) Costs of an unknown amount, likely ranging from minor and absorbable to the low hundreds of thousands of dollars, for CNRA and CalRecycle to participate in the task force (GGRF or General Fund).

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year (FY) and ongoing.

Department of Finance and LAO do not anticipate GGRF will have adequate revenues in FY 2026-27 to support all the statutory priorities and allocations approved as part of last year's legislative package that extended and made various changes to the state's cap-and-invest program, including creating new funding allocation tiers.

COMMENTS:1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

AB 2100 directs CDFA to convene an interagency taskforce to evaluate alternative manure management practices, identify research needs, recommend program updates, and improve coordination among the agencies that oversee related programs and regulations. This bill bridges that gap in demand by taking steps to improve state planning and support for alternative manure management strategies while addressing barriers to project approvals. Through this taskforce, the state can better understand and support multi-benefit manure management strategies that will help California reach important emission reduction targets and protect natural resources.

2) **Background. SLCP Strategy.** 1383 (Lara), Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016, requires ARB to approve and implement a comprehensive SLCP strategy to achieve, by 2030, the following reductions from 2013 levels: a 40% reduction in methane, a 40% reduction in hydrofluorocarbon gases, and a 50% reduction in anthropogenic black carbon. Methane is a powerful SLCP that is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year timescale.

Dairy and Livestock Methane. According to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, animal agriculture in California generates more than 300 million pounds of manure every day, and dairies and livestock are responsible for over half of the state's methane emissions. Manure methane emissions can be reduced through two primary methods – installation of an anaerobic digester and AMMP.

AMMP Program. CDFA's AMMP program, which has historically received funding from the General Fund and GGRF, provides financial incentives to dairy and livestock operations for the implementation of manure management practices (excluding anaerobic digestors) that result in long-term methane emissions reductions and maximize environmental benefits. Eligible practices include pasture-based management, alternative manure treatment and storage, solid separation, and conversion from flush to dry-scrape manure collection.

Since 2017, CDFA has awarded \$127 million through the AMMP program to 200 projects. There is currently no AMMP funding available, and during the last solicitation in 2024, AMMP funding was oversubscribed by 233%.

According to supporters of this bill, without access to funding support, many dairies will not have the resources necessary to improve manure management, especially as the “industry faces an increasingly challenging economic climate marked by low milk prices that fall well below rising input costs and growing fees, fines, and restrictions due to implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.” Supporters contend this bill improves interagency coordination for AMMP practices by (a) convening a task force to analyze the role of AMMP in California's climate and environmental goals and recommend improvements to state planning, incentive programs, regulations, and implementation and (b) convening relevant permitting agencies to develop a clearer and more efficient process for approving new and expanded projects that manage livestock and dairy manure.