
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 947
Author: Connolly (D), et al.
Introduced: 2/20/25
Vote: 27

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 4-0, 7/1/25

AYES: Hurtado, Cortese, McNerney, Padilla

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25

AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill (1) requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to oversee a sustainable agriculture program to provide research, technical assistance, and incentive grants to promote agricultural practices that support climate resilience for farms and ranches and the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and biodiversity. This bill (2) renames the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming to the Scientific Advisory Panel on Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture (Panel) for the purpose of providing advice to the secretary on the implementation of research, incentive, and technical assistance grant programs for sustainable agriculture. This bill (3) expands the panel from nine members to eleven members to add members of the public that represent scientific expertise in sustainable agriculture and members of state agencies that represent expertise in programs and policies related to agriculture.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law establishes the Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995 which, among other things, creates incentives to farmers who practice and promote

environmental farming programs for the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, wildlife and wildlife habitat.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CDFA to establish and oversee a sustainable agriculture program that shall provide research, technical assistance, and incentive grants to promote agricultural practices that support climate resilience for farms and ranches and the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and biodiversity.
- 2) Establishes CDFA shall serve as the repository of scientific information, on the environmental effects of agriculture, from various sources including colleges, industry, and conservation groups.
- 3) Renames the advisory panel from the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming to the Scientific Advisory Panel on Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture and adds two members to the Panel.
- 4) Expands the definition of “technical assistance” to include, among other things, training, conservation agricultural planning, and grant writing.
- 5) Requires the secretary to make available not less than 5%, but not more than 20%, of the funds appropriated to CDFA for the above-described programs, for providing technical assistance directly through a technical assistance grant program, or indirectly through a block grant program that includes funding for technical assistance.
- 6) Requires CDFA to provide funds to technical assistance providers to: (1) support farmers and ranchers in the application process for grants from those programs and the implementation of funded projects; (2) provide general planning and training for climate-smart and sustainable agriculture; and (3) lease, purchase, or repair farming, ranching, and food processing equipment that can be centrally housed with the technical assistance provider and shared regionally with producers.
- 7) Requires CDFA to authorize a percentage of funding to support training and capacity building within technical assistance provider organizations and coordination between organizations to improve assistance, as provided.
- 8) Requires CDFA to support information sharing among technical assistance providers, the department, and other relevant stakeholders, as specified. The bill requires the department to allow equipment sharing costs funded as part of the

grant awards to include developing and expanding equipment sharing programs, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/25)

A Voice for Choice Advocacy
Agricultural Institute of Marin
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Certified Organic Farmers
California Climate & Agriculture Network
California Compost Coalition
California Dairy Campaign
California Farmers Union
California Special Districts Association
Californians Against Waste
Carbon Cycle Institute
Community Alliance With Family Farmers
Wild Farm Alliance

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

“AB 947 will uplift farmers by expanding technical assistance for farmers by supporting farmers and ranchers with the application process, providing general planning and training for climate-smart agriculture, and more thus removing barriers to sustainable farming.”

The California Grape Rootstock, Avocado, and Apple Commissions, and the Olive Oil Commission of California write in support, stating:

“Many of the proposed changes in AB 1322 are non-substantive and technical in nature. Other amendments allow industry to be more competitive. For example, the proposed amendment to the Apple Commission would allow adoption of quality standards and product labeling standards by the secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), if requested by the commission. This authority is presently available to other commissions and in the case of apples,

would increase consumer awareness that California apples are grown using the Nation's most rigorous environmental and labor standards. AB 1322 also seeks to amend the Grape Rootstock Commission by allowing the CDFA to expedite actions against those not in compliance with the law."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, 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, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Sanchez

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
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