

To: The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors
From: Muriel Zeller, 2640 Stagecoach Drive, Valley Springs, CA 95252
Regarding: Agenda Number 15: Draft GHG Implementation Measures
Date: November 6, 2023

Via Email

Honorable Supervisors,

Under Measure CS-1, Conserve and Preserve Natural and Working Lands, GHG reductions were not quantified by the consultants, because it "contains considerable revisions by the Calaveras Planning Commission, many adapted from Butte County's Climate Action Plan."

The section of Butte County's Climate Action Plan that concerns agricultural land and open space is based on programming that has been under development since 2015 and that continues as the Butte County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy which won the 2018 APA California Innovation in Green Community Planning Award.

After receiving a planning grant, the Butte County supervisors adopted a resolution authorizing the SALC strategy, which "is a set of living tools and information intended to assist farmers, ranchers, and other members of the public in voluntarily conserving agricultural lands, and in implementing farming and ranching practices that will help achieve the key sustainability goals of carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, water conservation, and groundwater recharge."

In 2015, "Butte County began a process to update and prepare an agricultural lands base map, an inventory of vulnerable lands, a protected lands inventory, and other mapping products, as well as to identify key sustainable agricultural practices that could help the County meet its greenhouse gas emissions and agricultural lands conservation goals." In other words, proposed Measure CS-1 would require years of planning, work, and commitment in order to be successful.

However, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has identified a limited number of agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce GHGs, and improve soil health for funding through the Healthy Soils Incentives Program. Quantification Methodology and tools to estimate GHG reduction and co-benefits have been developed in collaboration with the California Air Resources Board and are currently available for these practices. Healthy Soils grants have already been awarded in Calaveras County.

Sincerely,
Muriel Zeller

cc:

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