

Agricultural Community's Perspective/Challenges of SGMA

Presented to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

By : Arshdeep Singh Date: March 11th, 2025 Punjabi American Growers Group

www.paggusa.com



Agenda

- Acknowledgement
- PAGG Overview and Mission
- SGMA from Growers/communities prism- Challenges
- SGMA Impacts
- Potential Solutions recommendations
- Conclusion



Acknowledgement

"We extend our deepest appreciation to the Tribal Nations of California, the original stewards of these lands. We honor their lasting connection to the land and recognize their essential role in safeguarding its health and productivity for future generations"

PAGG Overview



- Farmers Non-Profit Organization started 2020. Currently 450+ members across California
- Operated by BY-LAWS & Board and Executive members
- Key Focus area:
 - Technical knowledge center
 - Optimize complete farming operation (Nursery to marketing crops)
 - Reduce Farm Input cost
 - Marketing and pricing visibility
 - Government Representation

Empower all farmers with knowledge of services and resources from government, educational institutions and other entities to achieve sustainability. PAGG platform will provide end to end solutions by strategic alignment with leadership solution companies in each segment



SGMA from Growers/communities

- Sustainable Ground Management Act- Needed for sustainability
- Challenges:
 - Total failure in **Outreach** and **Implementation** 90% PAGG members heard SGMA after 2020
 - Lack of information to AG community or not provided in a timely manner
 - No programs to help farmers with water restrictions
 - No help for people who are losing jobs
 - No financial information or assistance Banks are coming hard on growers

Current crisis for 1M-1.5M acres of San Juaquin Land is catastrophic to our communities.

SGMA Impacts



- 5 counties will lose 1M-1.5M acres (1.5M/4.5M acres)
 - \$7 Billion annual lost revenue
 - \$2 Billion operating income Dr. David Sunding - Thomas J. Graff professor in the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley
- Small scale growers will lose everything (number TBD)
- Impact to 30% farm labor
 - approx. 85000 direct job loses Dr. David Sunding - Thomas J. Graff professor in the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley
- All Ag related businesses will see this impact
- 1.5M acres retired land will be prone to environment risks What's next?

Potential Solutions recommendations



- Aligning policy implementation SGMA and Senate Bill 100
 - 100% zero-carbon energy planning goal by 2045- need 50000acres of Solar farms
- Investing in Alternative crops
- Investing in Technology- water saving and automation
- Implementation needs to be slow start and then keep ramping up every year.
- Catch up the lost ground in Outreach
- Plan for land which will be fallowed if any!!

Conclusion



SGMA is essential for our long-term sustainability. It is crucial to take a holistic approach to California's water ecosystem, ensuring the survival of all stakeholders. We firmly believe that SGMA can be implemented without leaving any land fallow, without the loss of a single job, and without causing any bankruptcies. This can only be achieved through a strong commitment to collaboration, bringing together all parties at both the state and federal levels.

Thank You