University of California Research and Extension Center System

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National RCAS meeting,
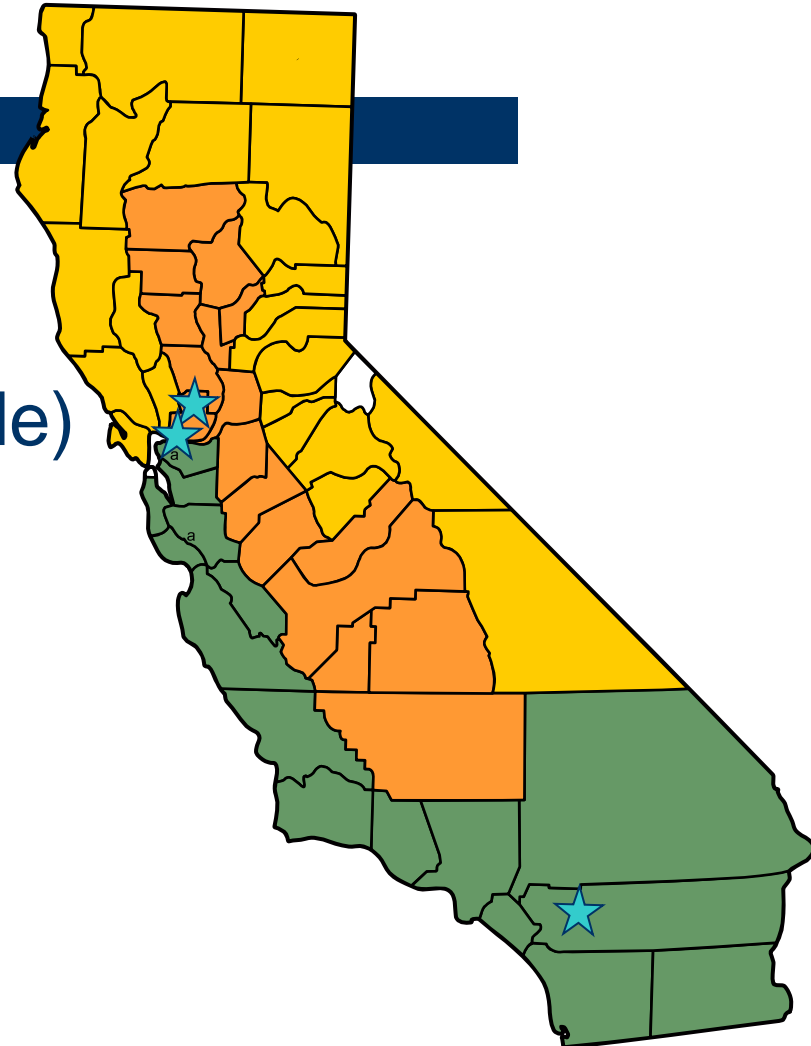February 2-3, 2009

UNIVERSITY
of
CALIFORNIA

Tough Budget Times

- Overview of the UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the REC system
- Innovative, demand driven strategic planning
  - The Division process
  - The REC system to individual Center plans
- Short term initiatives
- Keeping options open

UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 4 Colleges, 3 Campuses (Davis, Berkeley, Riverside)
  - 700 $\pm$ faculty
  - 120 $\pm$ CE specialists
- 52 County Offices
  - 220 CE Advisors

University of California

Research and Extension Centers

- 350+ research projects
- state with 350+ commodities
- ~$34 Billion farm gate value

* Intermountain

Hopland

* Sierra Foothill

Administrative Office

* Kearney

Westside *

* Lindcove

Shafter *

Hansen

South Coast

Desert

Current challenges facing California

- ~14 billion dollar state budget deficit
- No budget so far in '08-'09
- National and global recession
- Loss of jobs through out the economy
- Budget reductions across all California education systems

Our response: look toward the future

- Teams to synthesize best projections of the future of California:
  - Demographics and Infrastructure
  - Agricultural and Food Systems
  - Natural Resource Systems
  - Health and Nutrition Systems
  - Human Development Systems

- Program Council to draft strategic vision
- Steering Committee input
- Wide internal and external opportunities for comment

- Part II: development of implementation plan to achieve strategic vision

Future challenges facing CA are many:

- accommodating 8.5 million more people -- ~45 million
- innovating for and adapting to the impacts climate change
- ensuring adequate access to a safe, nutritious and sustainable food supply.
- clean, safe and secure access to water and energy
- viable agricultural and natural resource production systems
- land use decisions to support communities, the State's residents and the economy.
- improving nutritional health by educating people to make good food choices.
- contributing to a citizenry who can make informed decisions on governance and public policy through improved science literacy

California in 2025

- *a thriving state*
- *sustainable and productive food, fiber, and natural resource systems*
- *people of California enjoy a high quality of life, a healthy environment, and economic success in a global economy.*
- *close partnerships between the University of California and the people of the state*

Within UC, ANR's Mission is to:

- Develop and nurture connections that fully engage UC with the people of California
- Achieve innovation in science, research, and education that supports
  - A sustainable, safe, and nutritious food production and delivery system,
  - Economic success in a global economy,
  - A sustainable, healthy, productive environment,
  - Development of a science-literate public

REC system strategic planning

- REC system provide strategic directions based on future demands
- Individual REC plans will focus on regional issues and implementation
  - Includes facilities and personnel
  - Response options to long term operational challenges

Our vision of the REC system

- *an extraordinary research environment lead by a strong, vibrant organization of research and education academics*
- *supported by extraordinary research management capacity to conduct programs that allow for the delivery of the highest quality science*
  - *to produce a safe and secure food supply,*
  - *advance environmental quality,*
  - *improve human nutrition, and*
  - *help agriculture, natural resource producers stay competitive in local and global markets.*

Current situation in UCOP

- Reducing OP staff
- Voluntary separation program
- Layoffs
- 10% permanent Division budget cut
- $544K temporary budget cut

Loss of 7 staff

Current situation in UC

- Stopped major capital outlays
- Hiring freeze on ANR staff positions
  - Exceptions for critical needs
  - Still hiring AES and CE academics
- Additional scrutiny on travel
- START program
- Campus planning for 10% cuts
- No state budget – potential mid-year cuts still
- Retirement incentives???

- Within the Division no FY'09-10 temp funds
- Discussion of closing programs

Current REC system initiatives in addition to the planning process

- Evaluate REC system energy consumption, options to save/partner
- Exploring suitability of cell sites on Centers
- Exploring partners with K-12 and adult education programs (Farm Smart)
- Cultivating gifts
- Creative use of crop income
- Option to close a REC if

necessary to benefit entire system

More possibilities….

- Take advantage of the opportunities to link urban populations with agriculture and environmental education including demonstration research on the RECs…
  - Urban runoff
  - Urban agriculture
  - Organic agriculture
  - Many more

UCCE water-quality advisor Darren Haver is assessing three demonstration landscapes for the volume of runoff and pesticides. Left to right, typical high-, intermediate- and low-runoff homes.
Photo: Darren Haver

Clearly articulate role in meeting challenges of the future in California:

- **Increasing global and domestic populations will require increased food production**

  - **The REC system and its unique research and education programs offers the opportunity to respond to local needs for increased food products and value, as well as the opportunity to test varieties which will respond to global food and marketing needs.**

- **California faces diminishing and more costly energy supplies**
  - **ANR's research and extension network can provide California agriculture with new production technologies and practices which minimize energy consumption and utilize renewable energy sources. ANR innovations with partners can provide technology, marketing and policy advancements to enable expanded use of forest, range, and agricultural resources for renewable energy production.**

- our challenge is to be visionary enough to use our current opportunities, and wise enough to integrate our vast strengths from the campus, county, and research and extension center system….