

**California Nitrogen Assessment Stakeholder Forum**

**Date:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Courtyard Marriott, Midtown Sacramento

**Forum Host:** The Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis

**Forum Partners:** Sustainable Conservation, Roots of Change

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**Agenda**

1. **Welcome and introduction:** Tom Tomich, Director, Agricultural Sustainability Institute
    - What is the California Nitrogen Assessment? - *20 mins*
    - Partner Introductions (Sustainable Conservation, Roots of Change) - *10 mins*
    - Forum structure overview
  
  2. **Scoping:** what are your nitrogen questions?
    - Brainstorming and Categorizing Activity (facilitated small groups) - *40 mins*  
*Examples of possible questions:*
      - What are potential agricultural policy impacts related to nitrogen and climate change?
      - How reliable are existing measurements of nitrous oxide emissions?
      - Are there existing practices that can be put into place to increase nitrogen efficiency and save money, or is new technology needed?
      - How will ASI communicate the assessment's findings and practices?
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*Break – 10 mins*

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3. **Outcomes:** what are some of the products the Nitrogen Assessment should create?
    - Brainstorming Activity (facilitated small groups) - *30 mins*  
*Examples of possible outcomes:*
      - Web-based calculator to quantify the flow of agricultural nitrogen
      - White papers to help inform policy decisions related to nitrogen
      - Scientific papers on N cycling in California
      - Identification of research gaps for future investigation
  
  4. **Conclusion:** wrap-up, feedback, evaluations - *10 mins*
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## California Nitrogen Assessment Summary

**Background:** The Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis is partnering with a number of institutions and researchers over the course of the next two years to complete the California Nitrogen Assessment, an interdisciplinary agroecosystem assessment funded by a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. You can read the full text of the ASI Packard grant proposal on the ASI Web site.

**Why Nitrogen?** While nitrogen plays a key role in agricultural production, excess nitrogen application can lead to increased input costs for farmers and have consequences for the environment and human health. In order to gain a more comprehensive view of the state's nitrogen systems, the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis will be conducting the California Nitrogen Assessment – working together with producers, policymakers, and other interested parties. The assessment will provide valuable insight for stakeholders into the balance between the benefits of agricultural nitrogen to society, and the effects of surplus nitrogen in the environment.

**Potential products:** practical solutions for growers that will help minimize costs, including Web-based tools that will allow farmers to develop more efficient nitrogen management strategies, saving them money on inputs; metrics or scorecards that policymakers can use to assess best practices for nitrogen use in California; outreach tools that help the public understand nitrogen's importance in agricultural systems and its impact on the natural environment; scientific papers on N cycling in California; identification of research gaps for future investigation.

**Why we're holding stakeholder forums:** We're trying to find out what sort of information would be most useful to you, and the best format to get that information to you. We also want your input on the questions and concerns you might have with regard to nitrogen application, management, regulation, and policy. We want to establish a two-way dialogue throughout the life of the assessment, and the July 14 meeting is a step towards shaping the early stages of the California Nitrogen Assessment.

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### Research Questions and Contact:

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