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AB-1486 Climate resiliency: research farms: grant program. (2025-2026)

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Date Published: 04/03/2025 09:00 PM

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 03, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 1486

Introduced by Assembly Member Soria
(Coauthors: [Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry and Hadwick](#))

February 21, 2025

An act to add Section 33319.6 to the Education Code, relating to climate resiliency.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1486, as amended, Soria. Climate resiliency: research farms: grant program.

The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, approved by the voters as Proposition 4 at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election, authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs. Of these funds, the act makes \$300,000,000 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for improving climate resilience and sustainability of agricultural lands, including, among other things, by making \$15,000,000 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, for purposes of providing grants to public postsecondary educational institutions that are designated as Agricultural Experiment Stations or Agricultural Research Institutes, to develop research farms to improve climate resiliency, as specified.

This bill would, upon an appropriation by the Legislature for this purpose, require the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, on or before ~~January~~ [July](#) 1, 2026, to establish a grant program to provide grants to public postsecondary educational institutions that are designated as Agricultural Experiment Stations or Agricultural Research Institutes to develop or expand research farms to improve climate resiliency, in accordance with the above-described provisions.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 33319.6 is added to the Education Code, to read:

33319.6. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that funds made available pursuant to Section 93570 of the Public Resources Code, as added by the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, are granted to public postsecondary educational institutions that are designated as Agricultural Experiment Stations or Agricultural Research Institutes to develop research farms to improve climate resiliency.

(b) On or before ~~January~~ *July* 1, 2026, upon an appropriation by the Legislature for this purpose, the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, shall establish a grant program to provide grants to public postsecondary educational institutions that are designated as Agricultural Experiment Stations or Agricultural Research Institutes to develop or expand research farms to improve climate resiliency, in accordance with Section 93570 of the Public Resources Code.