



County of San Diego

2023 Climate Action & Agriculture Symposium

Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures

Maria Gomez, Deputy Director

May 25, 2023

San Diego's Unique Farming Environment

- Diverse collection of farmers, growers & producers
- Small farms that are family owned, family operated
- Largest organic footprint in the U.S.
- More than 200 crops!
- Thousands of certified shipments of locally grown food & plants exported worldwide
- Our nursery industry is the largest in California, second in the U.S.



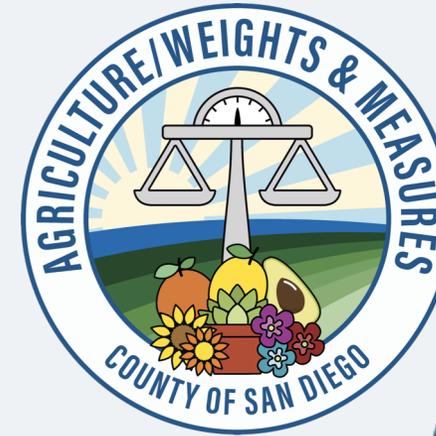
San Diego's 'Growing' Challenges

- Rising costs in water, housing, land, labor
- Agriculture-urban land use challenges
- Changing climate – rising temperatures
- Extreme weather patterns: drought, fire, floods, heat waves
- ...But, San Diego growers remain resilient & innovative
- Compliance with laws & regulations help promote mutual goals



AWM Efforts to Help Growers Meet the Moment

- Supporting climate smart practices
- Help implement Climate Action Plan & Regional Decarbonization Framework
- Promote local food supply
- Lead regulatory efforts
- Outreach events like free pesticide disposals
- Uphold organic standards
- Support maintaining agricultural water quality
- Data-driven agricultural innovation & best practices



Moving Forward

- We all have a unique role to protect against climate change
- Farmers, growers & producers have protected our environment & natural resources for generations
- We must work together to preserve a healthier environment for all



Thank You!



Maria Gomez

Deputy Director

- Maria.Gomez2@sdcounty.ca.gov
- 858-761-2523