**SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

**CLIMATE & AGRICULTURE**

**GLOSSARY OF COMMON TERMS**

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**REGENERATIVE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

Farming and grazing practices which use natural plant biological processes to build soil health and improve carbon drawdown, the water cycle, crop resilience and nutrient density.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

The integration of three primary objectives: a healthy environment, economic profitability and social and economic equity, to meet society’s current food and fiber needs without compromising the ability to meet these needs by future generations.

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**REGENERATIVE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

A holistic approach to farming, which builds on USDA certified organic standards and encourages innovation and improvement of environmental, social and economic measures including soil health, land management, animal welfare and farmer and worker fairness. Regenerative Organic Certification (ROC) criteria were introduced in 2018.

**SOIL HEALTH**

The sustained capacity of soil as a living ecosystem which supports food and fiber production to meet human needs and contributes to the delivery of other ecosystem services for people as well as towards conserving ecosystem biodiversity.

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Food production and distribution are impacted by climate trends on several fronts: economically, environmentally and politically. Prolonged droughts, extreme weather-related natural disasters and ever-changing geopolitical and global market environments have led to an increased number of studies, education and outreach efforts and programs to assist growers in adapting best management practices. Various terms have emerged to reference areas of focus and or interdisciplinary efforts and systems. This brochure is a quick reference to some of these commonly used terms.
The use of food production practices which improve the rate carbon dioxide (CO₂) is released into the atmosphere and/or improve the rate carbon is stored by plant material and/or soil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as amending soil with compost.

The direct and indirect benefits people receive from healthy ecological systems, which contribute to personal and community well-being. Types of services are categorized as supporting, provisioning, regulating and/or cultural services (e.g. water, food, medicine).

Gases emitted by natural or artificial activities and processes, which trap heat in the atmosphere and impact earth’s atmospheric greenhouse effect. The four primary greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and fluorinated gases. The EPA reports CO₂ was 81% of GHG in 2018.

Soil health conditions can have impact on a variety of direct and indirect agroecosystem services such as water quality and supply, erosion control, atmospheric composition and climate regulation, pollutant strength, pest and disease control and biodiversity conservation.

An approach which promotes increased agricultural productivity and incomes, builds resiliency to climate change, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

A food production system without use of conventional pesticides, petroleum-based fertilizers, sewage sludge-based fertilizers, herbicides, genetic engineering (biotechnology), antibiotics, growth hormones, or irradiation. National organic standards for food production, livestock management and land management must be met to be designated ‘Certified Organic.’