**Program Team: Environmental Horticulture**

**Who are we?** The Environmental Horticulture Program Team consists largely of members of two primary workgroups (nursery and floriculture/landscape) whose primary clientele are the production (nursery and greenhouse sector) and user (private and public landscape industry landscapers, urban foresters, parks superintendents, irrigation auditors, golf course superintendents, etc.) sectors. In addition, the non-commercial urban home landscaping sector is a secondary clientele reached largely by UC Master Gardeners. Networking activities also include working across disciplines with other program teams such as water and pest management.

**Meeting objectives:**

The January 2019 Program Team met in conjunction with the Climate Change Workshop in Merced on January 24, 2019.

* Highlight results of research and education projects and activities among members
* Engage in a discussion led by Mark Bell regarding how our Program Team and related workgroups meld with UC ANR’s Strategic Initiatives and Focus Areas
* Provide technical training and opportunities for cross-discipline work in climate change
* Discuss opportunities to more efficiently provide information from our Program Team to the Master Gardener program
* Discuss statewide position priorities
* Discuss the need to update our white paper describing the size and scope of the environmental horticulture industry statewide

**Primary meeting outcomes**

1. Increased awareness of research and extension activities Program Team members are involved in throughout the state
2. Enhanced understanding of how Program Team and associated workgroups relate to the Strategic Initiatives and statewide program goals (thanks to Mark Bell joining us)
3. Enhanced understanding of current work in the area of environmental horticulture pertaining to climate change (at the January 2019 Climate Change conference in Merced) and opportunities for cross-disciplinary work
4. Agreed that updating our white paper and needs assessment was of high importance due to advisor and specialist attrition and the need for key positions to be filled
5. Discussed how best our program team members can collectively provide streamlined information to the Master Gardener program
6. Discussed what UC ANR publications in the area of environmental horticulture need to be discontinued or updated and what new topics should be added

**Next steps**

1. Update white paper/needs assessment
2. Update position descriptions for three prioritized positions from the 2018 call for positions and determine if other holes (due to retirements) exist
3. Replace Don Hodel as a Program Team leader (retired)
4. Schedule a 2020 Program Team meeting (in Davis) that includes a plot tour of Loren Oki’s minimum irrigation trials, research/education updates, and further discussion of position needs and the white paper status

**How the PT activities contribute to the larger SI picture (See table for reference).**

Our meeting underscored ways in which our work in landscape water conservation, integrated pest management, and mitigating climate change through planting and maintaining landscape trees that sequester carbon dioxide and reduce temperatures in urban heat islands relate to three Strategic Initiatives (Water, Pests, and Healthy Families and Communities).

**We see the major contribution of the PT to these Focal areas:**

Water: Safe & sustainable groundwater, Holistic water management

Pests: Keeping invasive pests and pathogens out of California, New problems with existing pests and diseases, and Integrated management

Healthy Families and Communities (mostly through the extension of our work through the Master Gardener program)

**And these Grand Challenges:**

Conservation and enhancement strategies to bolster water resources and meet increasing agricultural, urban, and ecosystem water demands

Sustainable farm, urban, and natural resource management practices to protect soil and water quality from salinity, sediment, pathogens, excess nutrients, trace elements, and other contaminants

Quantifying the impacts of climate change on California’s precious water resources and consequent impacts on agriculture, urban, and ecosystems, while seeking ways to make these sectors more resilient to climate related risks

Emerging pests: the public understanding the role of science in safe and effective pest management

Pursuing new technologies for existing pests (e.g., breeding for powdery mildew)

Healthy Families and Communities: Safe drinking Water - Outdated infrastructure and unreliable water supply