**Position Title**: Agriculture, Land Use, and Climate Policy Specialist

**Position:** (1) The general disciplinary focus will be policy related to agriculture, land-use, and climate, with a focus on state policy, as well as interactions with federal and local policy. (2) The preferred background will be a PhD. scientist with a research background in a related topic such as land use, natural resource management, environmental science, lifecycle assessment, or sustainability, and would also have significant policy analysis experience, ideally at the state level. (3) The position will work with three university units: Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), Environmental Science and Policy (ESP), the Policy Institute for Energy, Environment, and the Economy (PIEEE), and the Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI), which includes the UC statewide Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP).

**Justification:** UC Davis and UC ANR have world-leading expertise in agriculture, land use, energy and fuels, and policy, and California is a global leader in climate and environmental policy. How the many laws and regulations affect agriculture, bioenergy, land use, and more is not well understood. The research expertise is diffuse and the policy environment is fractured. There is a great need to bring science to policy—to help design more science-based policy (such as agricultural offsets for carbon cap and trade programs) and to help stakeholders respond effectively to the raft of new policies—with the ultimate goal of creating healthy food systems, environments, and communities. Moreover, the policy environment is fractured, with different legislative committees and federal and state agencies having jurisdiction over different facets of relevant law and regulation. Land plays a central role in climate change, both in mitigation and adaptation. As emphasized throughout ANR’s Strategic Vision 2025, California’s future depends on science-informed policymaking. Therefore, there is a great need and opportunity to build on and integrate existing ANR and other UC research to catalyze interdisciplinary efforts to improve agriculture and land-use policy as it relates to climate, economics, equity, and environmental impact.

This Specialist would focus on critical existing and emerging issues affected by state and federal policy and regulations and how they must be navigated by growers, resource managers, local officials, and more. The work will include best practices for effective implementation of policy ideas and to enhance the ability of local actors to understand, navigate, and influence the direction of regulations and how they are interpreted in day to day settings. This position would leverage ANR’s local and state-wide expertise in food, agriculture, and natural resources, as well as directly contribute to ANR’s Public Values for 1) securing sufficient, safe, and healthy food for all Californians; 2) securing safe and health environments and protecting California’s natural resources; and 3) building climate-resilient communities and ecosystems.

**Extension:** The position will be expected to work in partnership with those agencies involved in agricultural, land-use, and climate policy, take an active role in public outreach, advise legislative staff, and develop strong collaborations with key non-governmental organizations. In response to articulated needs and opportunities, the Specialist will collaborate with local UCCE Advisors and Specialists, AES faculty, and non-AES scientists to serve as an information broker and expand the knowledge base in support of effective policy implementation. At the state level, this includes the Assembly and Senate Committees on Agriculture, the Department of Food and Agriculture, the California Air Resources Board, the California Department of Conservation, and the Governor’s Office. Federally, this include the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, the House Committee on Agriculture, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Locally, this includes cities and counties, equity and advocacy groups, and regional entities such as the Air Quality Management Districts.

**Research:** The candidate would address key questions in areas such as the following: 1. How does current agriculture and land-use policy influence climate mitigation and adaptation? 2. How much potential carbon sequestration is achievable from improved land management? 3. What are the opportunities to better align agricultural, land use, energy, and climate policies? 4. What policy outreach approach can help support these policy changes in a way that does not adversely impact local stakeholders, especially disadvantaged communities and groups? The candidate will need the skills and competencies to cross disparate research areas and policy silos, such as addressing increasingly important carbon cap and trade offsets for agriculture.

**ANR Network:** The new Specialist in CE would join and complement a network of ANR collaborators with work relevant to agricultural, land use, and energy policy, including faculty and CE specialists and staff from Davis, Berkeley, Riverside, and Merced—many of them among the 80 members of the Research-to-Policy Program Team and 70 members of the Climate Change Program Teams. CE specialists and staff include Leslie Roche, Dave Campbell, Tina Saitone (ARE), Steven Fennimore (PS), Mark Lundy (PS), Bruce Lindquist (PS), Anthony O’Geen (LAWR), Daniel Geisseler (LAWR), Frank Mitloehner (ANS), and Deanne Meyer (ANS) from Davis; Maggi Kelly, Van Butsic, Luke Macaulay, Adina Merenlender (ESPM) at Berkeley; and Edith Allen from Riverside; Tapan Pathak from Merced.

Academic faculty include the following at Davis: Kate Scow, Ben Houlton, and Yufang Jin (LAWR), Mary Cadenasso (PS), and several in the ESP department (Arnold, Handy, Lubell, Moore, Sperling, Tomich)—as well as many from other campuses. This new person will build partnerships with specialists and faculty across UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, and other UC campuses.

**Network External to ANR:** In additionto creating and enhancing existing links between ANR, UC academic faculty, and PIEEE, the specialist will also work with other academic institutions, key policymakers, and local communities affected by policy. ESP, the home department, has a long history of working on agriculture, energy, climate, and transportation policy, including a direct role in designing and implementing the low-carbon fuel standard. PIEEE works directly with both researchers and policymakers to increase the policy relevance and use of research. The external stakeholder network for this position is diverse and includes a variety of state, county, and federal agencies and policymakers (see Extension section above).

**Support:** The specialist will be provided office space in the Transportation and Energy Cluster in the West Village, co-located with PIEEE, the Institute of Transportation Studies, and the Energy and Efficiency Institute.

**Other Support:** For the first two years, The Institute of Transportation Studies and the Policy Institute for Energy, Environment, and the Economy has committed to provide a match of $10,000 per year each in support of this position.

Research and outreach programs led by this specialist could also be competitive for grant funds from USDA-NIFA and other national-level programs.

**Location**: The position will be based in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy. The physical location will be at West Village.

**Developed and Proposed by:** Suggested by Research-to-Policy Program Team. Dr. Dan Sperling (Professor, ESP and Director, Institute of Transportation Studies), Dr. Austin Brown (Executive Director, Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy, Leslie Roche (Specialist in CE and co-leader of UC ANR's Research-to-Policy Program Team), and David Campbell (Specialist in CE, Human Ecology)