



CALIFORNIA
SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING
ALLIANCE

DRY FARMING EDUCATION FOR COASTAL WINEGRAPES

California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

| \$2M contract

| 3-year project

| September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026



ADVISORY GROUP

- | Zureal Bernier – Bernier Vineyard
- | Miguel Garcia – Napa RCD
- | Steve Gliessman – Condor’s Hope
- | Frank Leeds – Frog’s Leap Winery
- | Riggs Lokka – Emeritus Vineyards
- | Jordan Longborg – Tablas Creek
- | Tod Mostero – Dominus
- | Stephanie Tillman - LandIQ
- | Vince Tofanelli – Tofanelli Family Vineyard
- | Yvonne Socolar – UC Berkeley

PROJECT PARTNERS

- | Lauren Pesch, Project Manager
- | Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- | Leeds and Pesch Vineyard Consulting
- | LandIQ
- | UC Davis Agricultural & Resource Economics
- | Ag Economist (TBD)
- | Dry Farming/Water Efficiency Experts (TBD)
- | SureHarvest
- | Groundwater Recharge Expert (TBD)



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1) Build Dry Farming Expertise and Networks
- 2) Work Directly with Growers for Site-Specific Education & Implementation Assistance
- 3) Develop Dry Farming Case Studies
- 4) Develop Other Educational Resources
- 5) Host Educational Workshops, Webinars and Field Days
- 6) Communicate and Promote Adoption of Dry Farming Practices



DEFINITION OF DRY FARMING IN COASTAL CALIFORNIA

Dry Farming is a farming technique that relies solely on utilizing the water naturally present in the soil, captured by the rain, to meet the needs of an established vine, without irrigation. In a Mediterranean climate, with dry summers, this requires capturing winter and spring rain. This long-standing practice encourages deep root growth, resulting in high quality grapes that reflect the terroir of the vineyard.

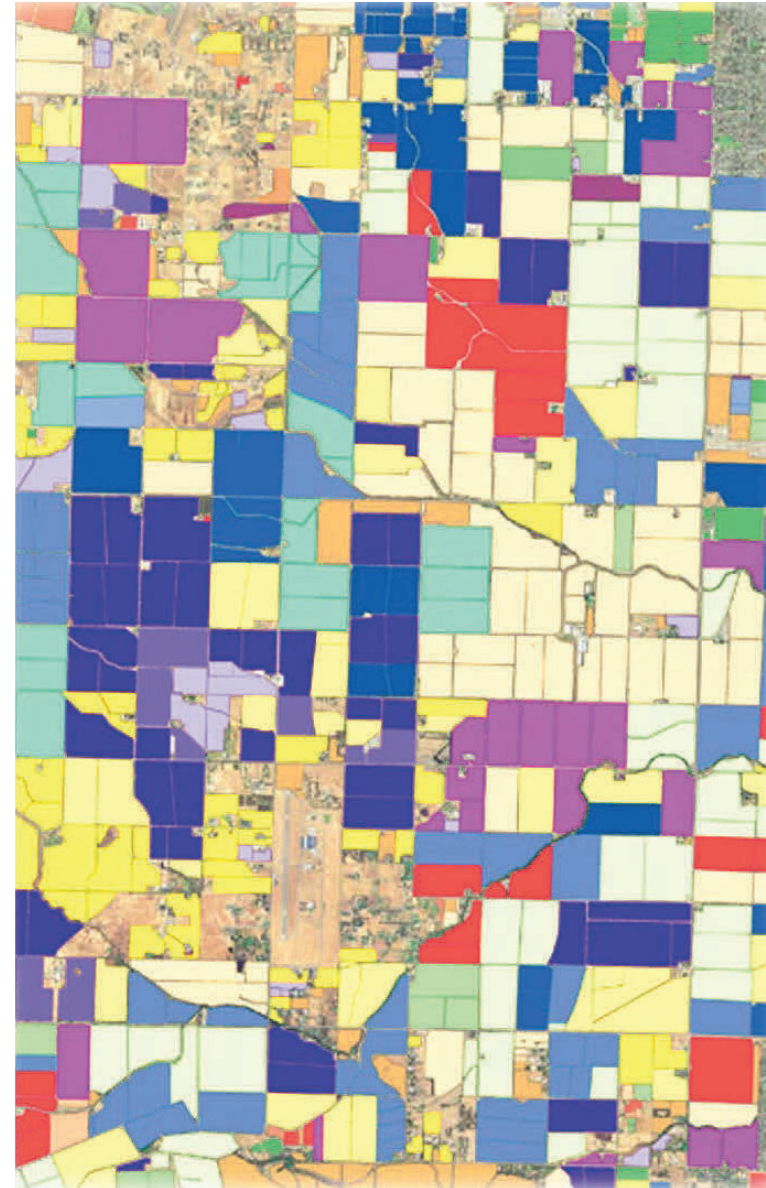


LAND IQ MAPPING

- ❖ Literature Review
- ❖ Suitability for dry farming
- ❖ Working on mapping component

UC DAVIS COST STUDY

- ❖ Start date of Summer 2024
- ❖ Cost of establishing a dry farmed vineyard



CASE STUDIES

- | Napa RCD –Water holding capacity and soil moisture of dry farmed vineyards
 - | Sampling Napa, Sonoma & Mendocino
- | UC Berkeley & Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory- Relationship between carbon and water in agriculture
- | Establishing a new dry farmed vineyard with cost/benefit analysis – using the technical assistance provided through the project
- | Transitioning an existing vineyard with cost/benefit analysis – using the technical assistance provided through the project
- | Biochar and/or other soil amendments
- | Groundwater Recharge



EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

- | First Workshop – Establishing a dry farmed vineyard
- | Mendocino – Pacini Vineyards Tuesday May 14th 8am-11am
- | Napa – Frog’s Leap Winery Tuesday May 21st 8am-11am
- | Paso Robles - Tablas Creek - Thursday May 30th 8am-11am

