

Definitions of Terms Used in the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Agriculture and Disadvantaged Communities Workshop

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Impact: An effect of climate change, such as higher average temperatures, increased extreme heat days, reduced chill hours, or changing hydrology (e.g. shift in precipitation patterns from snow to rain in the Sierra Nevada)

Vulnerability: The degree to which a system (or crop, or community) is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, the adverse impacts of climate change

Adaptation: Responding to climate change impacts that are already occurring, such as implementing strategies to address impacts, which moderates harm or enhances beneficial opportunities (e.g. changing crop type or planting shade trees to deal with increased high temperature days)

Adaptive Capacity: Inherent ability to make adjustments in response to impacts to moderate potential harm; high adaptive capacity reduces overall vulnerability

Mitigation: Reducing the future impacts and severity of climate change by decreasing emissions of greenhouse gases, or by sequestering carbon (e.g. in trees or soil)

Resilience: Ability of a system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning; a measure of the ability to 'bounce back' when impacts occur

Palmer Drought Severity Index: An index that compares the actual amount of precipitation received in an area during a specified period with the normal or average amount expected during that same period. Values taken into account in the index include precipitation, potential and actual evapotranspiration, infiltration, and run-off.

Disadvantaged Community (as defined by DWR): Census geographies with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income. Those census geographies with median household incomes less than 60 percent of the statewide annual median household income are defined as "Severely Disadvantaged Communities".