

ENERGY

## Agriculture Energy Efficiency: a view from California

Prepared for National Symposium on Market Transformation



April 22, 2015



DISPUTES & INVESTIGATIONS • ECONOMICS • FINANCIAL ADVISORY • MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

#### Introduction

#### **Data Collection Activities**

- » Sustainability Forums
  - 2 forums of 12 18 growers
  - Focus on programmatic needs
- » Subject Matter Interviews
  - 16 telephone interviews
  - Focus on market structure, technologies, energy efficiency drivers and barriers
- » Qualitative Interviews
  - 47 telephone interviews
  - Focus on market trends, costs, regulations and reference partners
- » Technical Survey
  - Telephone screening (95) and 1 to 2 hour on-site survey (86)
  - Focus on energy management, energy efficiency adoption, waste, water and information sources
  - Growers, warehouse operators and post-harvest processors NAVIGANT



#### Key Learnings

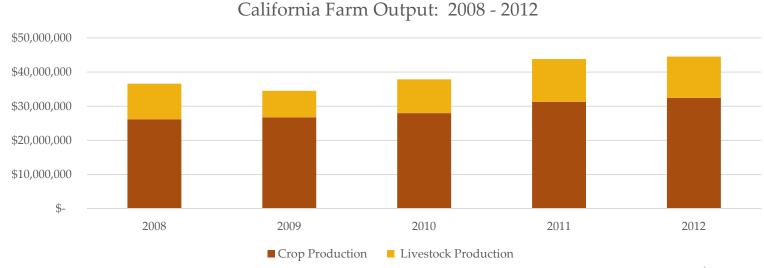
- » Agricultural customers are difficult for utilities and implementation contractors to understand
  - Present company excepted
- » Agriculture loads may be growing in unexpected directions
  - 16 telephone interviews
  - Focus on market structure, technologies, energy efficiency drivers and barriers
- » Program opportunities parallel those found in food processing



#### Characterization of California Agricultural Sector

## 2012 Census of Agriculture reaffirmed California's leadership in Agricultural production

- » \$44.7 Billion in farm output value (not including food processing)
- » 11% of national total
- » 350 crop and livestock commodities
  - One-third of national vegetable output
  - Two-thirds of national fruit and nut output



#### Differentiation » NAICS Codes

## NAICS does not adequately segment or differentiate agricultural production for the purpose of DSM planning

- » Code designations are commonly out of date and do not reflect land use changes
  - Production shifts from field crops to orchards
  - Transition to new lines of business
    - Commercial warehousing
    - Cemeteries
- » Farm operations extend beyond primary crop or livestock production
  - Post-harvest processing
  - Greenhouse operations for seedlings
  - Machine shops
  - Residences



#### Differentiation » What actually happens on the farm

#### Water use and labor trends are more pertinent differentiators

» Water – access to water will be a primary driver of electricity

consumption for crop production

Deeper wells

Greater delivery distances



» Labor – uncertain access to farm labor will increase mechanization

- Greenhouses, nurseries and mushroom producers are already

experimenting with automation





#### Needs of the Agricultural Sector

### Farmers and ranchers want to produce as much product per acre as they can (and still make a profit).

- » Energy efficiency is not a major concern of the majority of California growers and ranchers (as expressed in surveys, interviews and forums to Navigant staff)
- » Growers vet new ideas with their community before taking action
  - Multi-generational businesses
  - Familial connection
- » Sustainability (i.e. staying in business) during a mega drought, is the major concern
- » For any DSM program planning, consider these three questions:
  - What is the most energy efficient method to secure access to water?
  - How can growers select automation options that minimize load growth?
  - How do energy projects affect existing regulatory burdens?



#### **Innovators**

## On-farm DSM innovation correlates to vertical integration with food processing

- » Continuous process improvement approaches from food processing serve as a good examples for farmers and ranchers
- » Existing sanitary/phytosanitary protocols serve as good examples of data tracking and management
- » Center energy and water sustainability around management systems rather than equipment (pumps and lighting measures)



#### Key Lessons

## On-farm DSM innovation correlates to vertical integration with food processing

- » Develop better utility data for agricultural customers
- » Focus on management systems rather than equipment
- » Parallel existing information infrastructure
- » Focus on integrating DSM into grower/rancher concerns:
  - Water
  - Labor
- » Do not add to regulatory burden



# Key CONTACTS ©2015 Navigant Consulting, Inc. Confidential and proprietary. Do not distribute or copy.

## Rob Russell Associate Director 360-828-4012 Robert.Russell@navigant.com

