

**Proposed Rice Cultivation
Compliance Offset Protocol
4th Technical Working Group Meeting**

California Air Resources Board

Dec 20, 2013

9:00-11:00 a.m. PST



Conference Call Information

- Meeting agenda and materials posted at:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/protocols/riceprotocol.htm>
- Call-in information:
 - Call-in number: 866-815-7185
 - Passcode: 1597150

Agenda

- Introduction
- Protocol development update
- Discussion: Results of PBCS study on rice straw baling after harvest
- Discussion: Data used for DNDC model calibration and validation
- Comments and questions
- Meeting adjourned

Protocol Development Timeframe

- Draft protocol for public review: February 2014
- First hearing for Board consideration: May 2014
- Draft deliverables for contract No:13-404: Spring 2014
- Board hearing for CEQA approval: Fall 2014
- If approved by Board, protocol effective date: January 2015
- Verifier training for rice protocol: Summer 2014



PBCS Study

- Point Blue Conservation Science (PBCS) study:
 - “Assessing the environmental trade-offs of greenhouse gas emission reduction in California’s rice fields: The effect of baling on waterbird use of winter flooded rice fields.”
- Comparison of waterbird use on:
 - winter-flooded, baled rice fields
 - winter-flooded, non-baled rice fields.
- Strong use preference observed for dabbling ducks and shorebirds in non-baled, flooded fields



Staff Recommendation

- Historical treatment of rice straw after harvest in California
 - Rice Straw Burning Reduction Act of 1991
 - Flooded rice fields are important wildlife habitat: Migratory waterfowl
- Staff must weigh the environmental benefits, potential adverse impact, and uncertainties of all proposed practices
- Remove rice straw baling practice from the currently proposed protocol as an eligible project activity in CA
- Future inclusion is possible if further research supports its inclusion



Data Used for DNDC Calibration & Validation

- Data used for DNDC calibration & validation for CA, Mississippi delta, LA, and TX
- More data to come next year for structural uncertainty deduction for Mississippi delta
- Publicly available prior to Board consideration



Comments and Questions?



Protocol Contacts

- Greg Mayeur, Manager, Program Operations Section, gmayeur@arb.ca.gov
- Yachun Chow, ychow@arb.ca.gov, (916) 322-7450