ARTICLE 1. General Provisions [801 - 803]

801.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Thurman Agricultural Policy Act.
(Added by Stats. 1982, Ch. 1150, Sec. 1.)

802.

The Legislature finds and declares the following:
(a) Agriculture is the number one industry in California, which is the leading agricultural state in the country.
(b) Although California’s cultivated land accounts for approximately 3 percent of the country’s entire supply of farmland, the state has historically produced about 10 percent of the farm cash receipts in the United States.
(c) California leads the nation in the production of approximately 50 different crops and livestock products.
(d) The diversity of the state’s agriculture is truly impressive, for over 250 different commodities are grown here.
(e) Family owned farms produce most of the food and fiber produced by the California agricultural industry.
(f) The economic strength of the California’s agricultural industry depends on farmers and ranchers being able to profitably market the commodities and products raised.
(g) A profitable and healthy farming industry must be sustained by a sound natural resource base of soils, water, and air which is developed, conserved, and maintained to ensure sufficient quantities and the highest optimum quality possible.
(Amended by Stats. 1986, Ch. 408, Sec. 1.)

803.

The Legislature further finds and declares that, regardless of the findings in Section 802, this state does not presently have a formal agricultural policy. That policy should guide decisionmaking by the Legislature so that the needs of the agricultural industry can be considered for the benefit of the residents of this state, each of whom is directly and indirectly affected by California agriculture.
(Added by Stats. 1982, Ch. 1150, Sec. 1.)
ARTICLE 2. Agricultural Policy [821 - 822]
(Article 2 added by Stats. 1982, Ch. 1150, Sec. 1.)

821.

As part of promoting and protecting the agricultural industry of the state and for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, the Legislature shall provide for a continuing sound and healthy agriculture in California and shall encourage a productive and profitable agriculture. Major principles of the state’s agricultural policy shall be all of the following:
(a) To increase the sale of crops and livestock products produced by farmers, ranchers, and processors of food and fiber in this state.
(b) To enhance the potential for domestic and international marketing of California agricultural products through fostering the creation of value additions to commodities and the development of new consumer products.
(c) To sustain the long-term productivity of the state’s farms by conserving and protecting the soil, water, and air, which are agriculture’s basic resources.
(d) To maximize the ability of farmers, ranchers, and processors to learn about and adopt practices that will best enable them to achieve the policies stated in this section.
(Amended by Stats. 2000, Ch. 670, Sec. 3. Effective January 1, 2001.)

822.

The Legislature shall review actions taken in the implementation and furtherance of the state agricultural policy for their impact on the following factors:
(a) Productive agricultural land.
(b) Agricultural water supplies.
(c) Agricultural energy resources, including, but not limited to, energy rates and rate structures.
(d) Pest control, exclusion, detection, and eradication activities.
(e) Agricultural labor.
(f) Agricultural production tools, including, but not limited to, fertilizers and implements of husbandry.
(g) Marketing agricultural products in the domestic and foreign markets.
(h) Agricultural research, education, and agricultural extension programs.
(i) Agricultural transportation and distribution systems.
(j) Agricultural financing.
(k) Family owned farms.
(l) Activities of county agricultural commissioners.
(m) Agricultural exhibits at state-supported fairs.
(n) Recycling agricultural byproducts.
(o) Applied new technologies including, but not limited to, new food product and value-added product development.
(Amended by Stats. 1987, Ch. 152, Sec. 1. Effective July 10, 1987.)