Opportunities and Challenges for California Beef Producers

D. A. Daley
CSU, Chico
Diverse environments – “one size doesn’t fit all”
Diverse ecosystems/ diverse goals
Drought!
Feed (grass) and feed costs……
Competing land use/fragmentation
CA beef producers are confronted with a vast array of challenging regulations, that impact the ability to function as a business, and keep ranching viable.
Frequently, regulations....

• Are a solution in search of a problem.....OR
• The solution becomes the problem....OR
• Do not fix the problem they were intended to solve.......

• The Law of Unintended Consequences
The regulatory nature of our business – alphabet soup!

DMV, EPA, AQM D, WRB, DWR, DFG, CEQA, NEPA, CalTrans, FWS, IRS, DPR, USDA, FDA, FSIS, BLM, USFS, ARB, OSHA, NASS RWCQB, FSA, DPH, NRCS, CDFA, CHP, BOR, Animal Control... Plus County, State and Federal ordinances, regulations and legislation!
Generational transfer/generational “land ethic”
Opportunities
Sustainable enterprises... multi-generational, stable, community centered
Opportunities

- Market diversity
- Recognition of conservation/sustainability
- Supply/demand (locally and globally)
- “Generational land ethic”
- Commitment of youth
Challenges

- Very diverse enterprises
- Land fragmentation
- Seasonality
- Drought
- Regulations
- Generational transfer/expansion
- Competing land uses
- Marajuana
- Labor