



COMMUNITY MEETING

Learn About Steam Soil Treatments IN THE PAJARO VALLEY



The Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner's Office invites community members to attend a public outreach meeting to learn about an upcoming agricultural research project evaluating **high-temperature steam soil disinfestation** as a potential alternative to conventional pre-plant soil fumigation in berry production.



Between August and November 2026, **the project will evaluate how soil steaming performs under commercial farming conditions** and help researchers, growers, regulators, and the community better understand this emerging technology. Soil steaming uses high-temperature steam to reduce soil-borne pests, plant diseases, nematodes, and weed seeds **without the use of conventional soil fumigants**.

- Learn about the goals and scope of the project
- Find out what nearby residents may observe during field operations
- Ask questions and share feedback with project representatives
- Learn how this research supports the ongoing evaluation of alternatives to conventional soil fumigation

MEETING DETAILS



DATE:

Tuesday, August 18th



TIME:

5:30 p.m.



LOCATION:

Greg Caput Community Room

South County Government Center
500 Westridge Dr., Watsonville



Community members, neighbors, agricultural stakeholders, and anyone interested in learning more about this project are encouraged to attend. **We welcome your questions, comments, and participation** as we explore potential alternatives to conventional soil fumigation in Santa Cruz County.

