

# FRIDAY REVIEW

## LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

February 18, 2022

### Legislative Deadline

**The California State Legislature met a major milestone in the legislative process today—bill introduction deadline.** All bills to be heard for the remainder of the 2021-2022 legislative session must have been introduced by today. To date, the Assembly has introduced 973 bills and the Senate has introduced 437 bills. Many of these bills are known “spot bills” meaning they do not contain any language of substance but are placeholders used to meet this legislative deadline while the specifics of the bill language is finalized. Farm Bureau staff is furiously reviewing all introduced bills and has already begun to engage.

### Agricultural Technology

Senator Melissa Hurtado (D-Sanger) introduced [SB 892](#), which would require CalOES to develop, propose, and adopt reporting requirements applicable to companies and cooperatives in the food and agriculture industry if they identify a significant and verified cyber threat or active cyberattack. The bill would require a water and wastewater systems sector entity serving more than 3,300 people to report their risk assessments and emergency response plan required by the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 to the California Cybersecurity Integration Center, the Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Resources Control Board. Also, the bill would require CalOES to direct Cal-CSIC to prepare, and CalOES to submit to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2024, a strategic, multiyear outreach plan for state agencies to increase awareness and interest in cybersecurity in the food and agriculture sector and the water and wastewater sector and an evaluation of options for providing entities in those sectors with grants or alternative forms of funding to improve cybersecurity preparedness and potential actions that do not require funding that would create an incentive to improve cybersecurity preparedness in those sectors. *Staff: Peter Ansel, [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.*

### Animal Health and Welfare

USDA and CDFA sent out a notification this week of the recent [detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) in commercial turkeys in Indiana](#). The investigation is ongoing, but the detection is believed to be genetically similar to the Eurasian strain found in wild birds in Canada and the Eastern United States over the last few weeks. This suggests that migrating waterfowl infected with HPAI are a potential cause of this case. In addition, on January 30th, 2022, HPAI was confirmed on a commercial turkey farm in Western Nova Scotia (Canada).

Poultry Producers should:

- **PREVENT:** Please take the time to increase your biosecurity practices and deter wildlife, especially waterfowl, from your farm. Refer to the notices attached that were sent last Fall.
- **PREPARE:** We also highly recommend preparing an enhanced biosecurity plan and pre-certifying with the CDFA's Secure Food Supply Program. This pre-certification can help facilitate a swift return to business during a future outbreak event.
- **NOTIFY:** Please contact the Sick Bird Hotline at 866-922-2473 if you have concerning numbers of dead or sick poultry, or consult your veterinarian for unexpected drops in feed and water consumption.

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## Commodities

Assemblymember Cecilia Aguilar Curry introduced [AB 1656](#) to expand industrial hemp market opportunities for cultivators. Current California law governs the cultivation of industrial hemp in this state and establishes a registration program administered by county agricultural commissioners and the Department of Food and Agriculture for growers of industrial hemp, hemp breeders, and established agricultural research institutions. Existing law also requires hemp manufacturers who produce specified products that include industrial hemp to complete a registration process, under the State Department of Public Health, and to meet various requirements for testing and labeling on products. Industrial hemp is exempted from the definition of cannabis and from the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA). AB 1656 would specify that MAUCRSA does not prohibit the manufacturing, distributing, or selling of products that contain industrial hemp or cannabinoids, extracts, or derivatives from industrial hemp, if the product complies with all applicable state laws and regulations. *Staff: Peter Ansel, [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.*

## Farm to School

**The California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Farm to Fork is seeking public comment for the 2022 California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program's request for applications.** The Program will award \$60 million in 2022 and \$30 million in 2022-23 for a wide array of farm to school projects, the program offers four funding tracks:

- Track 1: The California Farm to School K-12 Procurement and Education Grant
- Track 2: The California Farm to School Partnership Grant
- Track 3: The California Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Grant
- Track 4: The California Farm to School Producer Grant

The request for applications can be viewed [here](#). The comment period is open from now until March 7<sup>th</sup> and may be made via email to [cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov) with the subject line "Farm to School Stakeholder Comments." Farm Bureau is in the process of reviewing the request and will provide comment. CDFA will also be hosting a series of public meetings with dates and times forthcoming. *Staff: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cfbf.com](mailto:troschen@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.*

## Insurance

**On Monday, February 14 2022, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and emergency management leaders in Governor Gavin Newsom's Administration announced "Safer from Wildfires," a new insurance framework that incorporates wildfire safety measures to help**

**save lives while making homes and businesses more resilient.** “Safer from Wildfires” provides a list of achievable, effective actions that will help reduce risk for property owners, including community-wide safety recommendations to prevent the spread of wildfire to other properties. This is the first time that state agencies have been brought together to identify mitigation actions that insurance companies should consider for existing homes and businesses. The Safer from Wildfires list of actions is consistent with mitigation actions proposed by United Policyholders’ Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection (WRAP) working group and wildfire risk reduction research by IBHS, among others. The list of [proposed mitigation actions](#) is available to download from the Department of Insurance website. *Staff: Peter Ansel, [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.*

## Transportation

**The Governor’s budget proposes \$30 million in grants to make operational and process improvements at the state’s ports to help alleviate supply chain problems.** One possible use for this funding would be to help implement recommendations for common data standards. Ports, ocean carriers, marine terminal operators, truckers, and railroads apparently lack common data standards that would allow for efficiently sharing cargo records or other relevant information about port and cargo handling operations. This lack of data standards could be contributing to recent supply chain congestion. The federal Maritime Commission and GO-Biz believe that implementing data standards would help to alleviate these problems. In the event that GO-Biz decides to move forward with a focus on helping to improve data interoperability, they observe that there is not a clear role for the state. Federal agencies may be better situated to play a coordinating or incentivizing role. For more information please review the [document](#). *Staff Contact: Katie Little, [klittle@cfbf.com](mailto:klittle@cfbf.com) or (916) 446-4647.*

## Utilities

**The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will hold an *en banc* meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. on Monday February 28, 2022, and from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday March 1, 2022, to consider proposals to limit and/or mitigate future electricity and natural gas rate increases focusing on residential customers, although the proposals may impact non-residential customers.** A quorum of Commissioners may participate, but no votes will be taken. Members of the public can attend the *en banc* by joining the meeting with the following information:

- Link to View the Enanc: <https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/>
- Public Comment Line: Toll-Free: 800-857-1917, Public Code: 1673482# - Press StarOne on your keypad to connect with our operator who will put you in the queue.

*Staff: Karen Mills at [kmills@cfbf.com](mailto:kmills@cfbf.com): Kevin Johnston at [kjohnston@cfbf.com](mailto:kjohnston@cfbf.com).*

## Water

Two dozen water related bills have been introduced by today’s February 18<sup>th</sup> deadline for measures to be introduced. The bills are intended to address a wide variety issues such as, groundwater adjudications, drinking water, water quality, water rights, State and regional water boards, ecosystem improvements, conveyance, atmospheric river research, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). 20 of these measures are waiting assignment to their first policy committee for hearing. Four are spot bills with only vague intent language with substantial

content language yet to be amended into the measures. During this early stage in the Legislative process Farm Bureau is closely monitoring all measures, researching their intent, background and discussing all with the authors and sponsors. *Staff contact: Danny Merkley, [dmerkley@cfbf.com](mailto:dmerkley@cfbf.com) or (916) 446-4647.*

**Following a request from the California Farm Bureau and its members, the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) is accepting public comments for its draft Request for Grant Applications (RGAs) for a State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Pilot Program for the Southern Desert Region of California.** Since its development in 2014, SWEEP has awarded very few projects in the Southern desert region due to the specific regional water and energy scenarios. Through this proposed SWEEP Pilot Program, projects will be focused on water conservation. They will be required to reduce on-farm irrigation water use and demonstrate emissions from irrigation water pumping will not increase or will be offset. California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes will be eligible to receive funding. Supported project components will include, among others, the use of weather-, soil- or plant-based sensors for irrigation scheduling, irrigation system changes, fuel conversion, renewable energy installation, utility interconnections, pump retrofits or replacements. The Draft Request for Applications can be found [here](#) and comments may be submitted by March 18, 2022, 5 p.m. to [cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov). *Staff: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cfbf.com](mailto:troschen@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.*

## Wildfire

**The Senate Budget Subcommittee 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Energy held a hearing on Wednesday February 16, 2022 to discuss the Governor's proposed Wildfire Package.** Providing testimony from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) were Secretary Wade Crowfoot and Deputy Director Jessica Morse provided testimony discussing the Agency's forest resiliency funding plan. The hearing materials can be reviewed [here](#). CNRA reviewed the major components of the Governor's proposed wildfire package, including \$482 million for forest resiliency focused on landscape level projects, \$382 million for community resiliency focused on prevention and fuel break grants, and \$44 million to home hardening and defensible space projects. The budget also includes \$38 million for science based management, \$44 million for workforce and business development targeted towards woody biomass sector, \$10 million for woody biomass transport grants, \$100 million focused on reforestation and \$30 million to address state facility defensible spaces. The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) recommended holding any action on the budget until the spring and suggested that the Legislature consider different funding models other than the two year appropriations and encouraged more reporting from agencies on how funds are spent. Senators Dahle, McGuire, and Chair Wicowski questioned CNRA regarding the ability of the state to stand up the requisite supply chain of mills, biomass plants, and transportation services to address the quantity of supply that will be coming out of treated forests. All three indicated that the Governor's budget may not sufficiently address those needs. Senator Stern asked about the success of individual home hardening. They also discussed CalFIRE's budgeted equipment (helicopters, dozers, engines, aircraft) capital expenditures, and the LAO's concerns about equipment purchasing. The hearing can be viewed [here](#). *Staff: Peter Ansel, [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.*



**Also on Wednesday February 16, 2022, the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation Advisory Council met to hear updates from different state agencies on the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.** The Governor's Office of Business Development (GoBiz) discussed its Sustainable Woody Biomass Industry effort and the need to reboot the existing industry and tie in high value industries that stay within the context of the state's environmental goals. The GoBiz report can be found [here](#). The Office of Planning and Research discussed its Market Development effort by deploying an application to track, map and facilitate a marketplace for woody feedstock. Finally, the Workforce Development subgroup is finalizing a forest sector workforce report and it's connection to the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. A presentation from Catalyst Partners about the Emerging Opportunities in Forest Biomass provided a heavy emphasis on the impact that forest biomass market development could have to California's climate goals. An overview of the federal government's strategies and investments in forest product and clean fuel development was provided, including the 45Q credit. Finally, the US Forest Service discussed its 10 Year Wildfire Crisis Implementation Strategy, including a goal of 20 million acres treatment for National Forest Service lands, and up to 30 million of state, private and other managed lands that will receive funding. The definition of treated acres includes prescribed and managed natural fire, and prioritization will be targeted towards "firesheds" that most threaten communities. *Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cbbf.com](mailto:pansel@cbbf.com); 916-446-4647*

**The Private Forest Landowner Work Group of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force is hosting a workshop on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm to present and take comments on a comprehensive strategy to assist small private forest landowners improve wildfire resilience on their lands.** The workshop will include action items and strategic plans being developed and aimed to increase forest management on smaller sized private forestland ownerships across the State. The Action Items addressed include expanding landowner education on forest management, grant opportunities to plan and implement management practices on private forestlands, increasing technical and financial assistance available for California Forest Improvement Programs, funding for rapid post fire forest restoration on private lands, and expanding resources needed for reforestation. This is part of the state's Action Plan which can be found [here](#). Please use the following link to join the workshop <https://meet.goto.com/364987117>. *Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cbbf.com](mailto:pansel@cbbf.com); 916-446-4647*

**CalFIRE is announcing up to \$10 million in funding available for Wildfire Resilience Block Grants.** Funding will support private forestland owners for practices outline in the [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#). The Wildfire Resilience Block Grant will provide funding to regional applicants who serve as aggregators to provide technical and financial assistance to groups of nonindustrial forestland owners in a specific region. Eligible individual landowner sizes range from 3-5000 acres. Under this grant, the grantee serves as the supervising entity, receives the grant from CAL FIRE and then provides outreach and/or technical/financial assistance to nonindustrial forest landowners so they can conduct forest restoration or management activities on their property. CalFIRE will accept proposals from February 14, 2022 to April 1, 2022. Applicants are limited to counties, resource conservation districts, special districts, and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that have the capacity to deliver a forestry-based assistance program. A virtual workshop to introduce the Grant Guidelines and the application process will be held on February 24, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Additional application

information including grant guidelines, eligibility requirements and deadlines can be found [here](#). Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cbbf.com](mailto:pansel@cbbf.com); 916-446-4647

**The Sierra Cascade Logging Conference hosted a panel discussion on February 10<sup>th</sup> in Shasta County titled “Fire and the Future of California Timberlands.”** Presenters included Dee Sanders and panelists Dan Tomascheski from SPI, Mike Albrecht, a registered professional forester, George Morris III from CalFIRE, Tony Scardina from USFS Region 5, and state Senator Brian Dahle. Most notably, there was consensus that the nature of fire in California’s forests have changed to become more intense. The panelists focused on different aspects of addressing the modern wildfire from the use of technology and new hardware to launch immediate points of attack, to the need for better collaborative strategies between federal, state, and private landowners during the course of fire fighting. A important section of the discussion focused on wildfire science, from Governor Brown’s recent step back into public life with the November 2021 Venado Declaration to the incredible value provided to the scientific community from Jackson Demonstration State Forest. With Cal Poly Humboldt receiving its new designation and launching a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Fire Science and Management, the panelists were hopeful that real forest and fire science could help decision makers be better informed as the Legislature and the Governor’s office try to change the scope of impact on the state from wildfire. Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cbbf.com](mailto:pansel@cbbf.com); 916-446-4647.

## Other News and Notes

**The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is now accepting applications for the California Fruit Tree, Nut Tree, and Grapevine Improvement Advisory Board (IAB) research grant proposals.** The IAB funds research to promote the production of fruit tree, nut tree, and grapevines resulting in improved nursery stock. The intended research should address important disease and pest problems or other cultural aspects of fruit tree, nut tree, and grapevine nursery stock production. Funding is made possible from industry assessments. Projects funded through IAB commonly include elements such as research of diseases and genetic disorders, variety identification, education and outreach, alternative treatment methods, and rootstock advancements as it relates to the production of high-quality tree and grapevine nursery stock. Applicants can review the required materials [here](#) and apply by April 1, 2022 at 5 p.m. Staff: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cbbf.com](mailto:troschen@cbbf.com) or 916-446-4647.