

FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL UPDATE

April 2, 2021

Meetings

The California State Board of Food and Agriculture will be meeting on Tuesday, April 6th from 10am to 1:45pm via GotoWebinar to hear water and climate updates from federal and state officials (USDA Deputy Chief Robert Bonnie and DWR, Director Karla Nemeth) as well as discuss sustainable pest management at its upcoming meeting. A presentation by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance will also be featured focusing on the Decade of Ag. The meeting can be accessed [here](#); webinar ID: 852-164-859.

Biodiversity

AB 564, a bill by Assembly member Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), would codify one of Governor Newsom's Executive Order signed last year to require the state to conserve 30% of its land and water by 2030. While the state agencies are already well underway to begin scoping for this effort, the bill contains a more concerning and far reaching provision prohibiting any state agency from taking an action that would inhibit or conflict with the achievement of this goal. Farm Bureau has expressed concern that this could be interpreted to extend to any action, including the issuance of take permits, waste discharge requirements, SGMA implementation, pesticide applications, etc. It can also be weaponized by project opponents to challenge the actions of agencies and agriculturalists doing required tasks. Farm Bureau is leading a robust coalition of natural and working lands stakeholder groups to oppose the bill. It has been assigned to the Assembly Accountability & Administrative Review Committee for a date to be determined. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Cannabis

Farm Bureau has submitted a concern letter regarding a bill, SB 59 (Anna Caballero, D-Salinas), which would extend the authority for state and local jurisdictions to issue provisional licenses from 2022 to 2028. While we understand that there are challenges to compliance and a lack of resources for local government, provisional licenses allow cannabis operators (including cultivators) to grow cannabis under a license while CEQA is "in process." We are concerned that this may extend the ability of unscrupulous actors to negatively impact the environment and communities unabated. The bill will be heard in the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee on Monday, April 5th and Farm Bureau is currently in discussion with the author's office regarding amendments and concerns. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Climate Change

Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) has introduced AB 1289, a bill to establish the Smart Climate Agriculture Program at CDFA. Under the bill, the Program would provide grants to dairies and ranchers that want to transition to lower water use "plant-based agriculture." This would also apply to those who grow feed crops for dairies or livestock operations. The bill makes non-factual and discriminatory statements about the

livestock and dairy sector in addition to proposing a program that's agronomically misguided. Farm Bureau is leading a coalition of agricultural organizations to oppose the bill. AB 1289 will be heard in Assembly Agriculture Committee on April 15th. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cbbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Commodities

Friday Review readers may remember in 2017, Farm Bureau sponsored legislation to create a 5% purchase preference for California grown and raised agricultural products to be applied in bids issued by state institutions. While this 5% purchase preference has been helpful, we are aware that it is not enough to make all commodities competitive against other domestic and international producers. [AB 778](#) (Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella) would remove the 5% purchase preference, but in its place, require all state agencies to buy California agricultural products unless they are not available or in season in California. Farm Bureau will support this bill as it heard in Assembly Accountability & Administrative Review Committee at a date to be determined. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cbbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

The Department of Food and Agriculture has announced that it is expanding its quarantine boundary in Los Angeles County in the Long Beach Area for Huanglongbing. A map of the proposed boundary can be found [here](#). *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cbbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

