

FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL UPDATE

December 10, 2021

Agricultural Technology and Economic Development

On December 1, 2021, the Assembly Select Committee on Technology and the Future of California's Agricultural Workforce, chaired by Assembly member Carlos Villapudua, held a hearing titled "Agricultural Technology Workforce – An Overview". Experts from University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources and other organizations discussed adoption of agricultural technology in California and educational pathways to agricultural technology careers. Information about the hearing can be found [here](#). Those that would like to rewatch the hearing can visit the Assembly video archives to watch the hearing [here](#). Staff: Peter Ansel, pansel@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Appointments

On December 9, 2021 the Biden Administration announced the appointment of **Martha Guzman Aceves** as the Region 9 administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For the past five years, Guzman Aceves has been a member of the California Public Utilities Commission. She also previously served as a Deputy for agricultural issues in Governor Brown's administration. Region 9 oversees implementation and enforcement of federal environmental laws in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, Pacific islands, and 148 tribal nations across the southwest. Staff: Peter Ansel, pansel@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Climate Change

The Environmental Justice Advisory Committee to the Air Resources Board will be meeting on Tuesday, December 14th from 1-5pm. The group will be discussing the 2022 Scoping Plan Update and proposed recommendations on pesticide use, working lands' negative emission strategies, and dairy methane. Information about the meeting including an agenda and the zoom link can be found [here](#). The Environmental Justice Advisory Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Air Resources Board. Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Commodities

The Industrial Hemp Advisory Board will be meeting on December 16th from 10am to 2pm virtually. The Board will be discussing outstanding regulations and fees to support the program. Information about the agenda items and how you can participate can be found [here](#). Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Pest Management

The Department of Food and Agriculture has extended the deadline for the Biologically Integrated Farming Systems (BIFS) grant program from December 6, 2021 to December 20, 2021. These grant projects demonstrate IPM-based alternative pest management options that focus on economical and efficacious biological and cultural pest management techniques accessible to growers. For more information, interested applications can visit the [BIFS](#) webpage. Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Water

The Department of Water Resources has issued letters to the Groundwater Sustainable Agencies representing the remaining six subbasins within the San Joaquin Valley on the status of their groundwater sustainability plans.

The basins are:

- Delta Mendota
- Kaweah
- Kern County
- Kings
- Tule
- Tulare Lake

The deficiencies they have are consistent with the deficiencies the Department described in the Tier 1 & 2 evaluations. The letters identify deficiencies that need to be addressed, thus giving these agencies an early opportunity to prepare the resources and staffing necessary to correct their plans once assessments are provided to the agencies in January 2022. After the final assessments are released, the agencies will have 180 days to address deficiencies. The letters can be found on the Department's [SGMA Portal](#). For questions, please contact the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office by emailing sgmps@water.ca.gov. Staff: Danny Merkley, dmerkley@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.

Wildfire and Forestry

On December 7, 2021, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation, chaired by Assembly member Richard Bloom, held an Informational Hearing on Wildfire Prevention and Forest Resiliency. State agencies presented 2020-21 and 2021-22 budget commitments, and early action spending. Experts from Cal Forest and other organizations discussed forest health and resiliency strategies. Presentations from the Legislative Analyst's Office and the California Natural Resources Agency are available online at the Committee's website here [here](#), and the hearing can be viewed [here](#). Staff: Peter Ansel, pansel@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Wildlife

Gray Wolf Update

On November 10, OR93 was found dead near Interstate 5 near the town of Lebec, California. Following a full investigation and necropsy, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has determined that the wolf died from trauma consistent with vehicular strike and does not suspect foul play. The wolf had significant tissue trauma to the left rear leg and a dislocated knee as well as soft tissue trauma to the abdomen. The injuries were deemed to be caused by a vehicle strike. OR93 was a male wolf born in 2019. As Friday review readers might remember, he dispersed from the White River pack in Northern Oregon. When his collar was providing information, he was tracked entering Modoc County on January 30, 2021. After briefly returning to Oregon, he reentered Modoc County on February 4. On February 24, he entered Alpine County after passing through portions of Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador and Calaveras counties. On February 25, he entered Mono County. In mid-March, he was in western Tuolumne County. By late March he was in Fresno County, and then entered San Benito County after crossing Highway 99 and Interstate 5. He was in Monterey County on April 1 and his last collar transmission was from San Luis Obispo County on April 5. Through April 5 he had traveled at least 935 air miles in California, a minimum average of 16 air miles per day. Young gray wolves can disperse very long distances from their natal area and OR93 is no exception. Before his demise, he was documented traveling the farthest south in California since wolves returned to the state, which is historically wolf habitat. The last documented wolf that far south was captured in San Bernardino County in 1922. This past month, producers have been plagued by recent wolf attacks in Northern California. Multiple confirmed depredation reports have been filed and attributed to, OR103, OR85, and LAS09F. Injuries consistent with wolf attacks, wolf DNA, and GPS collar data have been cited as evidence in these reports. OR103, reportedly, has been injured which may be the cause for the increase in livestock attacks. Farm Bureau continues to work with the Department and stakeholders on this issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact CAFB staff. More information is available on [CDFW's wolf page](#). Staff: Katie Little at klittle@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.