



# Farm Bureau at work

California Farm Bureau's government affairs team is at the Capitol, advocating for farmers, ranchers and agriculture's future. Here are some key issues Farm Bureau is focused on this week.

May 10, 2024

## Ag Technology

California Dairy Quality Assurance Program is hosting field days to share the latest technology available for producers. Dairy Plus provides millions of additional dollars to fund climate-smart advanced manure management technologies. The events are held 10 AM - 12 PM with Lunch to Follow.

- May 16 – Subsurface Drip Irrigation, Merced County - [REGISTER](#)
- May 23 – Verm filtration, Fresno County - [REGISTER](#)
- May 30 – Weeping Wall, Tulare County - [REGISTER](#)

Registration is required. The cost is \$20 (reimbursed with attendance). Locations of field days will be provided upon registration and verification. HPAI Precautions: please wear freshly washed clothes. Plastic booties will be provided. Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cbbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cbbf.com)

## Air Quality

### COMMUNITY AIR PROTECTION PROGRAM PROJECTS

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is announcing an [expansion of projects](#) that are eligible for funding for its Community Air Protection Program, making it possible for more communities to apply for and receive assistance for proven solutions that reduce emissions and exposure to harmful pollutants.

The expanded list was announced in the recently launched 2024 Community Air Protection (CAP) Incentive Guidelines. The program brings residents and organizations together with local air quality district and CARB staff to implement community-driven solutions that tackle the specific environmental challenges each area faces. Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cbbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cbbf.com)

## Dairy & Cattle

### WORKER SAFETY ON DAIRIES

This CDC has issued guidance that attempts to prioritize disbursement of PPE to dairies with confirmed or suspect herds. **California currently has no known cases of H5N1.** Absent confirmed or suspected HPAI (animals showing initial signs of infection per the vet), scarce resources should be held back in the rare event of further confirmed infection. Should a dairy voluntarily wish to provide PPE, follow the voluntary guidelines in Appendix D of Title 8 5144 the Respirator standard.

[PPE-Distribution-for-Dairy-Farm-Poultry-Farm-and-Slaughterhouse-Workers-5.6.2426.pdf \(agrisafe.org\)](#)

Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cbbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cbbf.com) and Bryan Little, [blittle@cbbf.com](mailto:blittle@cbbf.com)

### DAIRY SUMMIT

Dairy Cares has published its latest newsletter, [Fourth California Dairy Sustainability Summit Marks Success:](#) Dairy sector recognizes achievements and promotes progress in nourishing people and the planet. The newsletter covers the March summit that the organization held in Northern California. Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cbbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cbbf.com)

## Energy and Utilities

The Opposed Unless Amended position letter submitted by Farm Bureau on [AB 3238](#) authored by Eduardo Garcia (D Coachella) successfully precipitated a change in the proposed legislation. Amendments now address

our concern with the bill, which was regarding newly proposed processes and standards it would use for approval of transmission lines. We are aware that agricultural lands bear a disproportionate impact from locations to build out transmission lines. Provisions in the bill would have shifted important environmental and other reviews from the California Public Utilities Commission to the California Independent System Operator. The amendments made to the bill taken in the Natural Resources Committee make clear that such reviews remain with the CPUC. Farm Bureau very much appreciates Assemblymember Garcia's willingness to work with us on our concerns. We submitted a letter to the Appropriations Committee removing our opposition and clarifying that we are now neutral on the bill. It was heard in the Appropriations Committee on May 8 and was placed on the suspense file. *Staff contact: Karen Mills, [kmills@cbbf.com](mailto:kmills@cbbf.com)*

## Forestry and Wildfire

[AB 2276](#), authored by Assemblymember Jim Wood (D Healdsburg) and sponsored by the California Forestry Association passed from the Assembly 65-0 and moves onto the Senate. This bill, among other things, revises, improves, and reauthorizes an exemption first created in 2004 which provides an alternative to the Timber Harvest Plan process. It allows relatively light-touch logging activities (compared to what could be done under a THP) subject to numerous protective constraints but provides a more economical and easier way to do generally beneficial activities.

To increase the utility of the new Forest Resilience Exemption for private landowners and others, this bill increases the maximum project size to 500 acres, revises the maximum allowable diameter of trees that can be removed to allow field professionals to make more accurate determinations of tree size in the field, updates the stocking standards to better reflect geographic diversity, and allows the Board to determine necessary canopy closure metrics through rulemaking.

To balance the expanded exemption with environmental protections, the bill also requires, under the Forest Resilience Exemption, retention of the six largest trees on each acre treated under the exemption, provides for new protections for oak trees, prevents larger (older) trees from being removed for temporary road construction, and imposes new treatment standards for slash and woody debris within close proximity to public roads and critical infrastructure. *Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cbbf.com](mailto:pansel@cbbf.com)*

## Insurance

[AB 2260](#), authored by Assemblymember Lisa Calderon (D Whittier) and supported by California Farm Bureau, passed from the Assembly 65-0, and moves onto the Senate. The bill adds important transparency to that depopulation program, by requiring regular reporting requirements to the Insurance Commissioner, the Legislature, and the public so that the effort to stabilize the competitive market can be gauged through determining success or failure in decreasing FAIR Plan residential and commercial policy numbers. *Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cbbf.com](mailto:pansel@cbbf.com)*

## Transportation

### TRUCK RULES - CARB

The next Rule Provisions Truck Regulation Implementation Group (TRIG) meeting will be held virtually in June.

Date: June 5, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: [Zoom](#)

This meeting will continue the Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) purchase exemption process discussion and would include the following:

- Lessons learned from received ZEV Purchase Exemption requests,
- Opportunity for fleet owners to provide examples of exemption requests being prepared,
- Discussion of manufacturer or dealer sample responses when ZEVs are not available in the configuration needed.

The meeting will also begin the discussion on the Daily Usage Exemption. *Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cbbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cbbf.com)*

## **ADVANCED CLEAN FLEETS**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is holding a public online Q&A session for High Priority Fleet Requirements. The High Priority Fleet requirements are a component of CARB's Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. This session will be held via Zoom. Interested parties must register to participate. The session will be limited to 1,000 participants. This session will be recorded and made available on the [ACF website](#).

Date: June 20, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. P.D.T.

Location: [Zoom Webinar](#)

*Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cbbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cbbf.com)*

## **CARL MOYER PROGRAM**

On May 7, CARB held a second workshop around the revisions to the Carl Moyer program. They are considering revisions to the entire program. Some highlights include:

- Increasing maximum limit for light duty from \$1,500 to \$3,000
- Aligning with ACF and Clean Truck and Bus vouchers
- Clarify 2025 on road heavy duty voucher incentive program
- Flexibility around timelines for dismantling
- Point to FARMER guidelines eligible for off-road projects in certain chapters
- Adds new eligible project types of infrastructure

Meeting presentation is [linked here](#). *Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cbbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cbbf.com)*

## **Water**

### **KAWEAH SUBBASIN PROBATIONARY HEARING SET FOR NOVEMBER 5**

This week the State Water Resources Control Board [announced](#) its schedule for public input and hearings in the process to consider whether to designate the Kaweah Subbasin as a probationary basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The board also released a [draft staff report](#) identifying the deficiencies in the subbasin's groundwater sustainability plan and an executive summary in English and Spanish. If the board places the basin in probation, many groundwater pumpers will need to report their extractions to the board and pay fees. The board may also require extractors to install and use meters to measure their extractions.

June 24, 2024 - Virtual public workshop, 11 AM - 1:30 PM

June 27, 2024 - In-person public workshop in Visalia, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

July 8, 2024 - Deadline for written public comments, 12 PM

November 5, 2024 - Hearing to vote on probation, 9:30 AM

*Staff: Alex Biering, [abiering@cbbf.com](mailto:abiering@cbbf.com)*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCY ON SHELL EGG ADVISORY BOARD**

SACRAMENTO, May 6, 2024 - The California Department of Food and Agriculture, Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch (MPES) announces one vacancy for one public member on the Egg Safety and Quality Management's (ESQM), Shell Egg Advisory Committee Board (SEAC). ESQM monitors egg quality at production, wholesale, and retail levels. The goal is to provide California consumers with eggs that are wholesome, properly labeled, refrigerated, and of established quality, while maintaining fair and equitable marketing standards in the California egg industry. This vacancy is due to an upcoming term expiration. The membership term for this vacancy will be for 36 months. Applicants should not be a registered egg handler or a representative of a registered egg handler. Board members receive no compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for transportation to and from meetings and for per diem expenses for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses. Applicants interested in being considered for this SEAC appointment, should submit resumes by August 21, 2024, to:

Mrs. Penny Arana  
Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch  
1220 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814 [penny.arana@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:penny.arana@cdfa.ca.gov)

## **CDFA AND CALEPA REGULATORY ALIGNMENT CONCEPT PAPER RELEASED FOR FEEDBACK**

Sacramento, May 6, 2024 – The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has released a Regulatory Alignment Concept Paper outlining initial proposals for streamlining agriculture-related food safety and water quality reporting requirements. The Concept Paper is part of a [Regulatory Alignment Study](#) led by CDFA in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Boards). The objective is to evaluate and identify opportunities to streamline administrative processes and reduce paperwork pressure on farmers and ranchers. Informed by a broad range of interviews and feedback, the proposals presented in the Concept Paper serve as a foundation for gathering feedback and are not final recommendations.

CDFA's consultant, Crowe LLP, is requesting feedback on the Concept Paper to inform its final regulatory alignment recommendations to CDFA, CalEPA, and the Water Boards, which are expected in 2025. Crowe will hold informational webinars later this month to provide an overview of the Concept Paper, to be followed by a series of workshops June and July of this year. Feedback on the Concept Paper can be provided at the workshops or sent via email to [RegulatoryAlignmentStudy@crowe.com](mailto:RegulatoryAlignmentStudy@crowe.com) by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.