

February 12, 2021

AIR QUALITY

The California Air Resources Board will be meeting on February 25th to discuss several items of note, including the next round of community selections for AB 617, a program focused on community developed emission reduction programs, and the San Joaquin Valley 2020 Agricultural Burning Assessment. Farm Bureau staff is in the process of discussing each proposal with County Farm Bureaus, CARB board members, staff and other agricultural stakeholders. More information on each agenda item can be found here. Please note, some information and materials will not be released to the public until the day prior to the scheduled meeting. *Staff Contacts: Robert Spiegel, rspiegel@cfbf.com or Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

CLIMATE CHANGE

The California Department of Food and Agriculture hosted two of the six farmer-rancher roundtables this week for the dairy and livestock sectors. Feedback from these meetings were categorized into four sections: (1) the need for financial incentives, (2) additional research and education, (3) necessary equipment and data collection, and (4) other items. More information, including the agendas and notes from these dairy/livestock meetings can be found here. Two more roundtables, focused on annual crops, will meet at the following dates/times and we encourage Farm Bureau members to register and share their thoughts:

- Annual Crops Meeting #1, February 16 at 2 p.m.: https://csus.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtdOqgqj0sGNRlzD5RdDouZcGBWa3d_RMc
- Annual Crops Meeting #2, February 19 at 9 a.m.: https://csus.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsf-GhrTsuE9J1mm3NiT8KwCR2qJhwBRXp

Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

The Assembly Agriculture Committee held and information on environmental farming, specifically, on Climate Smart agricultural practices. Farm Bureau members, Mr. Douglas Berretta (Sonoma) and Mr. Jason Mraz (San Diego), presented on the farmer/rancher panel. They joined Secretary Karen Ross with the Department of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Horwath from U.C. Davis and others. To review the agenda and materials, please visit the Committee website here. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

The Senate Budget Subcommittee 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy will be meeting on Tuesday, February 16th. The hearing will open with an oversight discussion of the Cap and Trade program, with some advocates recently promoting the disadvantages of the program. The subcommittee will then open to the hearing the Governor's proposals on, among other things, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Air Resources Board, CalRecycle and the Department of Food and Agriculture. To note, several items presented by the Governor for early action in his

January budget, including the FARMER program, the Healthy Soils Program and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP), may be considered for action. A livestream of the hearing, which begins at 8am can be found here. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

COMMODITIES

The Department of Food and Agriculture's Industrial Hemp Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, February 9th. The Committee discussed the State's progress on developing a plan for submission to USDA, legislation and registration fees. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Friday review readers may remember AB 535 (Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, D-Dixon), as AB 2074 from 2019, which would make it unlawful to use the term "California olive oil" or "California olives" on olive oil unless the olives are grown entirely in California. Olive oil labeling from a specific region could not be named with that region unless 85% of the olives were derived from that region. Any product labeled unlawfully can be seized by the Department of Food and Agriculture. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

CROP PROTECTION

AB 567 (Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, D-San Ramon) would prohibit the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds and impose penalties for their use in California. Farm Bureau will likely position on this bill, when assigned to a policy committee and educate legislators. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Assemblymember Christopher Ward (D – San Diego) has introduced AB 223, a bill that would make it unlawful to uproot, remove, harvest, or cut dudleya, from land owned by the state or a local government or from property not their own without written permission from the landowner in their immediate possession. CFBF staff has met with the author's office and sponsors of the bill to clarify the current language and has confirmed that it does not apply to nursery owners. A violation would only occur if the plant or propagation was obtained through what would be deemed as "illegal poaching" on public or private lands. CFBF has not taken a position on the bill at this time but will continue to monitor the issue and make membership aware of any future amendments. *Staff Contact: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

NUTRITION

AB 558 (Adrian Nazarian, D-Sherman Oaks) has been recently introduced which would require the Department of Education to implement the California School Plant-Based Food and Beverage Program. Under this program, local school agencies could apply for additional funding ($0.20-$0.10/meal) to include plant-based food and milk options. Additional one-time payments of up to $1,000 per agencies for meal reimbursement and $100,000 for program implementation. Farm Bureau is still evaluating their position on this bill. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

POLLINATORS

Assemblymember Villapudua (D-Stockton) has introduced AB 391, a bill which would provide $5 million General Fund to the Department of Food and Agriculture to provide to partner organizations to encourage and incentivize grower/rancher participation in state and federal programs that establish pollinator habitat and forage. Partner organizations include UC Cooperative Extension, California resource conservation districts and USDA-NRCS. Farm Bureau is still in the process of evaluating the bill. *Staff Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

TAXATION

Dozens of County Farm Bureaus and members have expressed a desire to support AB 281, (Autumn Burke, D - Inglewood), which as currently drafted is a nonsubstantive bill related to conforming California tax law with federal law to provide tax relief for business that took loans from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Farm Bureau is in direct contact with a coalition of multiple statewide associations who are supporting AB 281. As staff has not seen any substantive language at this time, we are withholding a formal position until we can fully review the legislation. Conforming state law to federal law for the purposes of allowing a California business to deduct a PPP loan ensures that businesses do not endure another financial strain related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm Bureau does believe that conformity related to PPP loans is absolutely necessary and we look forward to reviewing the language associated to this proposal. As more information becomes available, staff will update as necessary. *Staff Contact: Robert Spiegel at rspiegel@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

As California businesses continue to feel the financial impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislature has introduced numerous tax relief, credit and forgiveness proposals. One such proposal is SB 74 (Andreas Borgeas, R-Fresno and Anna Caballero, D-Salinas). SB 74 would appropriate $2.6 billion to the Office of Small Business Advocate within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) for grants to qualified non-profits and businesses that have experienced financial hardship from COVID-19. SB 74 provides that businesses, meeting certain requirements, are eligible for grants ranging from $5,000 to $60,000. These grants can be utilized for such eligible costs such as payroll, health care benefits, paid sick, medical, or family leave, insurance premiums, working capital, rent, utility bills, mortgage obligation, debt payments, and costs related to reopening operations after being closed by the state-mandated COVID-19 restrictions, and those costs related to complying with reopening and COVID-19 safety protocols. Farm Bureau has joined with a coalition of interests in support of this legislation. *Staff Contact: Robert Spiegel at rspiegel@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

TRANSPORTATION

Earlier this week Assemblymember Rob Rivas (D-Hollister) introduced AB 584, a bill which would create a pilot program to authorize dairy operators to haul over 80,000 pounds of raw milk if the vehicle uses renewable fuels. The bill is sponsored by California Dairies, Inc. and does provide added incentive for dairy operations to begin converting their transportation fleets. Whether we agree or not with the Zero-Emission Vehicle mandate, the impact this eventual regulation will have on all California agriculture will be immense. The logistics, lack of infrastructure, lack of incentives and non-existent scalability of new equipment are only some of the significant problems associated with the transition. In the meantime, a pilot program which allows operations greater flexibility to move heavier volumes of product, in exchange for transitioning to renewable fuels or zero-emission, may

prove beneficial. The Legislature has asked for agriculture to provide innovative solutions, we believe this is worthy of consideration. Farm Bureau will be supporting AB 584. *Staff Contact: Robert Spiegel at rspiegel@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION AND LAND USE

AB 564 (Lorena Gonzalez – D San Diego) was introduced this week in response to the Governor's Executive Order N-82-20. It would establish the Biodiversity Protection and Restoration Act and would provide that it is the policy of the state that all state agencies, boards, and commissions shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the biodiversity conservation purposes and goals of certain executive orders. The bill would require all state agencies, boards, and commissions to consider and prioritize the protection of biodiversity in carrying out their statutory mandates. The bill would require strategies related to the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 to be made available to the public and provided to certain legislative committees by no later than June 30, 2022. CFBF has contacted the author's office and will have more information about our position in the coming weeks. *Staff Contact: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

SB 322 (John Laird – D Santa Cruz) which was introduced on February 5 would establish the California Conservation Ranching Incentive Program as a separate component of the California Farmland Conservancy Program. The bill would authorize the Director of Conservation to enter into contracts for an initial term of 3 years with nonpublic entities that are owners of record or lessees of productive rangelands, grazing lands, or grasslands that are determined by the director to be important for the conservation of grassland birds, soil health, and biodiversity. The bill would require these contracts to include an agreement by the owner and any lessee to restore, enhance, and protect the grassland habitat character of the land subject to the contract and to require the Department of Conservation to pay a specified amount to the owner or lessee for undertaking conservation obligations under the contract. CFBF has contacted the author's office and will have more information about our position in the coming weeks. *Staff Contact: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*