

FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 7, 2022

Agricultural Education

The Legislative Analyst's Office published an [Analysis of the University of California's Agricultural and Natural Resource \(UCANR\) Programs](#). The report found that the state has, since 2018, taken a "more proactive role, but that the Legislature still lacks sufficient budgetary information from UC to adjust funding on an annual basis." One of the recommendations of the report was to require the UC system to regularly submit budget reports and achievements to justify additional spending. Friday Review readers may remember that Farm Bureau advocated for additional baseline funding for UCANR so that they may provide adequate service through the Cooperative Extension service and 4-H youth development programs. With the new \$32 million General Fund appropriation they received in 2021, Farm Bureau will be closely monitoring how those funds are expended and reported to the Legislature and that they benefit farmers and ranchers.

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Climate Change

The Legislative Analyst's Office published a review of four state funded climate smart agriculture programs: Healthy Soils Program (HSP), the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP), the Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP) and the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). The report questioned the extent to which these programs accurately accounted for greenhouse gas emission reduction and increased carbon sequestration. As such, their recommendations to the Legislature include additional reporting, changes to the methods to calculate reductions and direct additional research to ensure practices are continuing on-farm beyond the end of the grant timeline. The full report can be found [here](#). Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com, or 916-446-4647.

In December 2021, the Air Resources Board hosted a public workshop on the role of natural and working lands in the [2022 Scoping Plan update](#). The scoping plan identifies the pathway the state must take in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2045 and achieve the state's 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The workshop proposed four different scenarios for how the state can achieve these targets using different land types, including wetlands, forestlands, deserts, and irrigated and non-irrigated agricultural land. Many of the scenarios included maximizing the amount of carbon sequestration and/or emission reductions projects conducted on agricultural land (often known as climate smart), reducing wildfire risk and some included increasing organic production. Farm Bureau, with the support of a large coalition of agricultural organizations, submitted a public comment that can be found [here](#). Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com, or 916-446-4647.

Commodities

The Industrial Hemp Advisory Board will be meeting via zoom on Thursday, January 20th from 10am to 2pm. According to the [agenda](#), the Board will be discussing the program budget, recent regulations regarding sampling, destruction and remediation, and the state plan submitted to USDA. Information on how attend is as follows:

- Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82064545353> Meeting ID: 820 6454 5353; Passcode: Hemp@10am
- Dial-In: 1-669-900-6833; Meeting ID: 820 6454 5353; Passcode: 296790144

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Dairies

The California Department of Food and Agriculture State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) has set aside \$2 million to fund subsurface dairy manure drip irrigation systems. The maximum grant award is \$200,000 per system. [CDFA SWEEP funding](#) is available specifically for drip irrigation on dairies in this round of grants to help dairies improve water and nutrient use efficiency. The application submission period will end January 18th, 2022 or until funds are expended. First come, first served. Producers can apply and receive up to 100% of the cost of a project. If needed, there are resources available to assist producers in completing and submitting the application. Here is a [video](#) on the system and here are [printed materials](#) that Sustainable Conservation produced in support of the grant program. Staff: Peter Ansel, pansel@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Forestry

On January 4, 2022 the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released a report entitled "Options for a Forestry Management Training Center in Northern California". The report was developed to guide the Legislature on its intent to consider approving a forestry management training center in the 2022-23 budget. The LAO provided suggested policy actions that the Legislature could consider addressing forestry workforce gaps, and to ensure that a training center targets the certain forestry positions for training. The full LAO report can be viewed online [here](#). Staff: Peter Ansel, pansel@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647

Land Use

[AB 1547](#) (Eloise Reyes, D-Los Angeles), a Farm Bureau opposed bill, has been recently amended following a hearing by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. The bill, as introduced last year, would authorize the Air Resources Board to regulate indirect emission sources, a role traditionally held by local air quality management and pollution control districts. The bill would also require a local government, before approving a warehouse development project, to ensure the project is at least 3,000 yards from a sensitive land use, consider all air quality impacts from incoming and outgoing trucks and require all onsite equipment (loaders, trucks, forklifts, belts, etc.) be electric. The bill would also require much more significant public outreach to community residents beyond the current CEQA requirements, including the development of a "community benefits agreement" that identifies the project's zero emission vehicle use, delivery and waste hauling protocols and private shuttle service. The bill also requires all construction work completed on the warehouse development project to be conducted be done by a "skilled and training workforce" or that a set percentage of jobs are offered to residents. Farm Bureau has joined a coalition to oppose AB 1547 with concerns raised about the bill's application to downstream food processing, distribution and storage facilities, and to on or off-farm coolers and packing sheds. Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Farm Bureau opposes [AB 1001](#) (Cristina Garcia, D-Bell Gardens). This bill expands CEQA requirements to incorporate the issue of discriminatory land use policies. Specifically, the bill creates two new legal standards: (1) it forces all public agencies when complying with CEQA to "act consistently with the principles of environmental justice," and (2) requires all air and water quality impacts be mitigated directly in the affected disadvantaged community. Both requirements are already incorporated in planning and zoning laws and CEQA requirements and present ambiguities, legal challenges and liabilities for lead agencies and project applicants. The bill is set to be heard in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on Monday, January 10th. Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Natural Resources

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) recently released a draft of the [Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature](#), which identifies recommendations on how the state can achieve a 30% conservation of lands and state coastal waters by 2030. Farm Bureau will be providing public comment before the February 15th deadline. The 30x30 Advisory Committee will be hosting a virtual meeting on January 12th from 3-5pm to discuss opportunities for public feedback and member input on recommendations and the implementation plan. Interested parties are asked to register [here](#) and can view the agenda [here](#). The state will also be hosting another public feedback

session for oral comment on Tuesday, February 1st from 3-6pm. Registration for that event can be found [here](#). *Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Waste

A bill that would have established a climate bond, [SB 45](#) (Anthony Portantino, D-La Canada), has been amended to respond to implementation of the state's short lived climate pollutant goals. Existing law requires cities and counties to divert 75% of their organic waste below 2014 levels by 2025. Regulations went into effect January 1st of this year and will be very challenging for local jurisdictions to meet. In response, SB 45 requires CalRecycle to provide additional budgetary assistance to cities and counties to meet this mandate. More information on this issue is forthcoming. *Staff: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com, or 916-446-4647.*

Water

A two-year measure was amended this week that would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish a program called the Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) in Drinking Water. [SB 230](#) (Anthony Portantino, D-Glendale) would require the state board to establish, maintain, and direct an ongoing, a dedicated program called the CEC in Drinking Water Program for 5 years to assess the state of information and recommend areas for further study on, among other things, the occurrence of CEC in drinking water sources and treated drinking water. The measure has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Farm Bureau has not yet positioned on the bill and is working with the Author to address any possible concerns. *Staff: Danny Merkley, dmerkley@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

A measure was introduced this week that would clarify existing law that a person diverting 10 acre-feet or more of water per year under a registration is subject to these water diversion measurement, recording, and reporting requirements. [SB 832](#) (Bill Dodd, D-Napa) would additionally authorize the state board to modify water diversion measurement requirements if the board finds that, among other things, the beneficial use of the water right is for irrigation, the water right is for direct diversion only, as specified, and the runoff and tailwater from the application of the diverted water returns to the same surface water source from which it was diverted. Farm Bureau has not yet positioned on the bill and is working with the Author to address any possible concerns. *Staff: Danny Merkley, dmerkley@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*