

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.

October 28, 2022

Announcements

CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCIES ON REGISTERED SERVICE AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is announcing three vacancies on the Registered Service Agency (RSA) Advisory Committee. The committee advises the department on all matters concerning the registration of services agencies, as authorized by Business and Professions Code (BPC), Division 5, Chapter 5.5, Section 12541. CDFA's RSA Program is responsible for registering businesses and their employees who, for hire or payment of any kind, repair commercial weighing and measuring devices. CDFA's Division of Measurement Standards and county weights and measures officials regularly monitor the work of these businesses.

The RSA Advisory Committee consists of seven members. Three (3) positions are currently vacant.

- One member representing industry clients of service agencies
- Two members representing county sealers or directors of weights and measures

Applicants must demonstrate applied knowledge in the field of weights and measures and either technical expertise with commercial weighing and/or measuring devices or general knowledge of government oversight of the RSA industry. The term of office is three years. Members are asked to be available to participate in a minimum of four meetings per fiscal year. The committee may meet more frequently if needed. Committee members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment for necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the Department of Personnel Administration.

Individuals interested in being considered for appointment must send a brief letter of interest and a completed Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire

(<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/rsa/ProspectiveRSAAdvisoryCommitteeMemberQuestionnaire.pdf>) to dms@cdfa.ca.gov by December 2, 2022.

Appointments

Governor Gavin Newsom announced the following appointments:

- **Tyrone Bland, 51, of Altadena**, has been appointed to the California Water Commission. Bland has been Head of Government Affairs at Creative Artists Agency since 2020. He was Vice President of State and Local Government Relations at Herbalife from 2016 to 2020, Managing Partner at Porter Tellus LLC from 2007 to 2016 and Managing Director of the Capitol Hill Consulting Group from 2005 to 2007. Bland was Director of Government Affairs, Western Region for Amtrak from 2003 to 2005, a Legislative Representative for the City of Los Angeles from 1998 to 2000 and Chief of Staff to Assemblymember Carl Washington in the California State Assembly from 1996 to 1998. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Bland is a Democrat.
- **Denise Kadara, 69, of Allensworth**, has been reappointed to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she has served since 2014. Kadara served in several positions for the City of San Mateo from 1997 to 2004, including as Senior Management Analyst and Economic Development

Specialist. She was a Senior Planner for the City of Hesperia from 1990 to 1994 and served in several positions for the City of Fontana from 1986 to 1990, including as Senior Planner and Administrative Analyst. Kadara was a Project Coordinator for the City of Norwalk from 1984 to 1986 and served in several positions for the City of West Covina from 1978 to 1984, including as an Aide and Planning Intern. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Kadara is a Democrat.

- **Kimberly Cox, 62, of Helendale**, has been reappointed to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she has served since 2013. Cox has been General Manager at the Helendale Community Services District since 2007. She was Senior Management Analyst for the City of Victorville Public Works Department from 2003 to 2007 and a Water Resources Specialist for the City of Hesperia Water Department from 1999 to 2003. Cox was a Customer Service Representative at Roadway Express from 1991 to 1999. Cox earned a Doctor of Public Administration degree from the California Baptist University and a Master of Public Administration degree in Water Resources Management from California State University, San Bernardino. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Cox is a Republican.
- **Amy Horne, 68, of Truckee**, has been reappointed to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she has served since 2003. She was an Intern at the Natural Resources Defense Council, in the Office of U.S. Senator Harry Reid, in 2015 and an Intern in the Office of the Delta Watermaster at the California State Water Resources Control Board in 2014. Horne was a Science Writer at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center from 2007 to 2009, Research Director at the Sierra Business Council from 1998 to 2005 and a Forest Researcher at the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station from 1993 to 1997. Horne earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Boyd School of Law, Doctor of Philosophy in Forestry and Master of Forest Science degrees from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Master of Public Administration degree in Natural Resource Policy and Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Horne is a Democrat.
- **Michael Méndez, 44, of Long Beach**, has been reappointed to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, where he has served since 2021. Méndez has been an Assistant Professor and Andrew Carnegie Fellow in the Department of Urban Planning and Public Policy at the University of California, Irvine since 2019. He was a Faculty Fellow and Associate Research Scientist at the Yale School of the Environment from 2016 to 2019 and a Postdoctoral Scholar and Lecturer at the University of San Francisco's Department of Environmental Science from 2015 to 2016. Méndez was Legislative Director at the University of California, Office of the President from 2008 to 2010, Senior Government Affairs Advocate at Blue Shield of California from 2006 to 2008 and Senior Legislative Aide in the Office of California State Assemblymember Cindy Montañez from 2003 to 2006. He is a member of the National Academies of Sciences' Board on Environmental Change and Society and the Alliance for a Better Community. Méndez earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Public Policy degree in City and Environmental Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Méndez is a Democrat.
- **James Stahl, 79, of Rancho Palos Verdes**, has been reappointed to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, where he has served since 2018. Stahl has been President of JFS Environmental Engineering since 2015. He was Vice President at MWH Global, Stantec Engineering from 2007 to 2015 and held several positions at the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County from 1969 to 2007, including Chief Engineer and General Manager, Assistant Chief Engineer and General Manager, Director of the Solid Waste Division and Director of Treatment Plant Design. Stahl is a member of the Water Environment Federation, National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Stahl is a Democrat.

- **Megan Lim-Blair, 37, of San Diego**, has been reappointed to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she has served since 2018. Blair has been Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives for Rady Children's Hospital since 2019. She was Chief Development Officer at the San Diego Public Library Foundation from 2008 to 2019. She was Capital Campaign and Major Gifts Manager at Girl Scouts, San Diego – Imperial Council from 2007 to 2008, where she was a Fund Development Associate from 2006 to 2007. Blair was a Development Associate and Environmental Analyst at Save the Harbor, Save the Bay from 2003 to 2005. She is a member of Women Give San Diego. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Blair is a Democrat.
- **Gary Strawn, 76, of Santee**, has been reappointed to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, where he has served since 2010. Strawn was an Engineering Consultant at Gary Strawn Consulting from 2007 to 2012 and a Program Manager at United Technologies Hamilton Sundstrand from 1988 to 2006. He served as an Officer in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1988. Strawn is a member of the San Diego River Park Foundation, San Diego Fly Fishers, San Diego River Conservancy and the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee. Strawn earned a Master of Science degree in Materiel Management from the United States Naval Postgraduate School. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Strawn is registered without party preference.
- **Bryn Forhan, 63, of Fresno**, has been reappointed to the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board, where she has served since 2001. Forhan has been Owner at the Forhan Company since 2002. She was Vice President of Government and Community Relations at Community Medical Centers from 1995 to 2002 and was District Chief of Staff for California State Assemblymember Jim Costa from 1991 to 1994. This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Forhan is a Democrat.
- **Kristine Murray, 54, of Anaheim**, has been reappointed to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she has served since 2018. Murray has been President and Chief Executive Officer at KLM Strategies since 2018. She was Senior Vice President at Willdan Group Inc. from 2010 to 2018. Murray served as Executive Director of Government Affairs at the Orange County Transportation Authority from 2008 to 2010, where she was Manager of Government Relations from 2004 to 2006. She was Vice President of Government Affairs at the Orange County Business Council from 2006 to 2008, Director of Government Relations at the San Bernardino Association of Governments from 2002 to 2004 and Director of Communications at Polar Air Cargo from 2000 to 2002. She was West Coast Government Affairs Director at the Air Transportation Association from 1998 to 2000, Director of Government Affairs at the City of Long Beach from 1996 to 1998 and a Legislative Assistant in the Office of U.S. Congressman Stephen Horn from 1992 to 1996. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$250 per diem. Murray is registered without party preference.

Staff: Danny Merkley, dmerekley@cfbf.com.

Agricultural Employment

The Cal/OSHA Standards Board met in San Diego on October 21. At that meeting, four of seven Standards Board members strongly requested that Cal/OSHA include exclusion pay in the two-year non-emergency COVID-19 Standard the Board is expected to consider at their December meeting. Farm Bureau has been supportive of the agency's decision to forego further exclusion pay requirements in the non-emergency version of the standard, given the Legislature's proven ability to respond to needs for employees to be made whole for missing work because of COVID by passing and renewing COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave, most recently doing so in August for SPSL that will remain in effect until December 31, 2022. *Staff: Bryan Little, blittle@cfbf.com*

Transportation

On Thursday, the CA Air Resources Board (CARB) held a board meeting with a single agenda item on the docket. CARB staff presented on the proposed [Advanced Clean Fleets \(ACF\)](#) rule. This rule would require certain truck fleets in California to phase in electric vehicles by 2024 and set 2040 as the final deadline for

sales of new medium-and heavy-duty internal combustion vehicles. ACF is in line with the clean trucks regulation passed in 2020 and follows the Advanced Clean Cars 2 (ACC2) regulation approved in August which bans the sales of new gas-powered cars by 2030. CAFB signed onto an industry coalition letter earlier this month to express our concerns with this proposed regulation. Some of the many issues cited in this letter are: 1) lack of inventory of zero-emission medium and heavy-duty trucks; 2) lack of charging infrastructure; 3) lack of power grid capacity; and 4) the high cost of ZE trucks and vehicles. Along with the reasons listed in our coalition letter, CAFB testified that agricultural commodities are unique – livestock, fruits, and vegetables are perishable. Additionally, a majority of CA Farmers and Ranchers live in remote and rural communities that have limited access to the infrastructure required for this proposal. The time required to charge these vehicles in addition to the time needed to travel to these charging facilities could jeopardize food security and availability. During the public comment period, many environmental justice groups spoke out for even stricter regulations. These groups cited increased health risk in transportation corridors directly related to diesel emissions. They asked to redefine “priority fleets” which was set at 50 or more trucks, down to 10 or more trucks. As well as asking to move the target year deadline from 2040 to 2036. The Board did not vote on the proposal but will take the matter up at a future meeting in 2023. CAFB will remain engaged on the issue. *Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com*

Water

The California State Board of Food and Agriculture will hear updates on Tuesday, November 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. regarding local actions by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to manage groundwater basins as well as an updated study on drought impacts related to idled land and economic loss. You can view the meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83520053322>.

Staff: Danny Merkley, dmerkley@cfbf.com

Two California water storage projects were awarded federal funds last week. The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Project received \$82 million as part of federal water storage funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law approved by Congress last November. The Bureau of Reclamation also allocated \$30 million for Sites Reservoir. In total, \$210 million was allocated to seven projects in the western United States. Learn more [here](#). *Staff: Danny Merkley, dmerkley@cfbf.com*

The State Water Resources Control Board is accepting proposals for \$4 million of federal Clean Water Act section 319 funding. Funding will be awarded to projects that reduce fertilizers, sediment, pesticides, and other pollutants from reaching waters. Proposals can be for sustainable farming, grazing, timber harvest, wildfire recovery, and marina operations, as well as rural road improvements, habitation restoration, and more. You can attend two informational webinars on the Nonpoint Source Grant Program, November 1st from 10:30 to 11:30 and November 2nd from 4:30 to 5:30. Staff will answer your questions and explain eligibility and application requirements, funding timelines, instructions on the online application system, scoring criteria and more! You can sign up at this [link](#) for one or both sessions. Proposals for the Nonpoint Source Grant Program are due by 5:00 pm on Monday, December 19, 2022, using the State Water Board’s Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>.

Application requirements include:

1. Applicant must be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization; Federally Recognized Tribe; federal, state, or local agency; or public college
2. Project must address a watershed or waterbody listed in the “Program Preferences” of the Grant Program Guidelines
3. Project must have a Watershed-Based Plan
4. Project must be completed in 3.5 years or less

5. Project must provide 25% funding match (waivers of match available for projects benefitting disadvantaged communities)
6. Minimum funding request \$250,000, maximum \$1,000,000

For more information about the 2023 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, see the 2023 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines posted on the NPS Grant Program website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/319grants.html), or contact Mike Hanks at Michael.Hanks@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-5558. Staff: *Danny Merkley, dmerkley@cfbf.com*.