



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL UPDATE

February 05, 2021

SPECIAL ELECTION

Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring a special election for the 79th Assembly District of the State of California on June 8, 2021, a seat recently vacated by Dr. Shirley Weber who has selected to serve in former Senator Harris' seat. The primary for the special election will be held on April 6, 2021.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Department of Food and Agriculture is hosting the first two of six farmer-rancher roundtable meetings, specifically for the dairy and livestock sector to discuss existing on-farm climate smart practices and biodiversity opportunities and challenges. Additional information has been provided by CFBF to County Farm Bureau staff. The meetings are as follows:

- Monday, February 8th from 2-4pm
- Friday, February 12th from 9-11am

Additional meetings for annual and perennial crops will be hosted later in the month. The recommendations that come from these roundtable discussions will inform a report to guide the State's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and the next update of the Air Resources Board's Scoping Plan in 2022.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is seeking public comment on new recommendations for the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). Comments are due now until March 1, 2021 via email to cdfa.oefi_ammptech@cdfa.ca.gov by 5 p.m. CDFA will be hosting a workshop on Tuesday, February 16th from 10am to noon. Registration is available [here](#).

CROP PROTECTION

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is holding a webinar on March 17th from 10am to noon to discuss a proposal to increase registration fees to a level that supports the current and future business functions of the pesticide registration program. This would be in addition, though separate from the mill increases proposed in the Governor's budget. A Zoom link will be provided about two weeks prior to webinar and it will be shared in a subsequent Friday Review.

DAIRY

AB 425 (Devon Mathis, D - Visalia) has been introduced in response to federal milk standards which differ from California's. The current California dairy law sets forth various requirements applicable to producers, handlers, and producer-handlers, including the payment of certain assessments on milk and participating in certain referendum procedures. This bill would remove producer-handlers from operation of the provisions of the dairy law by revising the provisions of the dairy law to delete the definition of, and all references to, producer-handlers. CFBF has contacted the author's office and will have more information about our position in the coming weeks.

POLLINATORS

Assemblymember (Villapudua, D - Stockton) has introduced [AB 391](#), which would provide \$5 million to the Department of Food and Agriculture to provide grants, technical assistance (to UC Cooperative Extension, NRCS and RCDs) to incentivize participation in state and federal conservation programs geared to improve pollinator habitat and forage opportunities. Farm Bureau is in the process of evaluating this proposal.

PUBLIC LANDS

Assemblymember (Robert Rivas, D - Hollister) has introduced [AB 434](#), a bill that would make grazing on public lands more accessible in order to prevent the spread of wildfire. The bill would allow long-term grazing leases (between five and twenty years in duration) on state, county, and municipal lands in order to provide ranchers enough time to develop infrastructure such as perimeter fencing and water developments at no cost to the state. Long-term leases would help prevent wildfire by having continual managed grazing on these fire-prone areas. AB 434 would also require the Department of General Services, upon the expiration of a grazing lease, to offer a subsequent grazing lease to the current rancher if they have substantially complied with all terms of the expiring grazing lease. This bill is sponsored by the California Cattlemen's Association. CFBF is reviewing the current language and is still in the process of taking a formal position

WASTE

Friday Review readers may remember that Governor Newsom vetoed legislation last year that would have extended the Treated Waste Wood Program at the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which detailed some allowances for agricultural wood waste management. In lieu of a program extension, DTSC will be providing a process to apply for Treated Wood Waste Variances, available [here](#) and should be open to applications on February 16th. Interested parties can send questions on DTSC's portal at: ttw_help@dtsc.ca.gov and can sign up to stay up to date [here](#). Finally, DTSC will be hosting a webinar to provide a brief review of the program, go through a sample variance and application, and answer questions. This will take place on February 11th from 2-3pm and registration will be available on their [website](#).

WATER

A measure that would require all California surface waters to be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable by January 1, 2050 was introduced this week. [AB 377](#) (Robert Rivas, D-Hollister) would prohibit the State Water Resources Control Board and regional water quality control boards from authorizing an National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge, waste discharge requirement, or waiver of a waste discharge requirement that causes or contributes to an exceedance of a water quality standard. Furthermore, the measure would prohibit water boards from authorizing a best management practice permit term authorizing a discharge that causes or contributes to an exceedance of a water quality standard in receiving waters. The bill would prohibit, on or after January 1, 2030, a regional water quality control plan from including a schedule for implementation for achieving a water quality standard that was adopted as of January 1, 2021, and would prohibit a regional water quality control plan from including a schedule for implementation of a water quality standard that is adopted after January 1, 2021, unless specified conditions are met. The bill would prohibit an NPDES permit, waste discharge requirement, or waiver of a waste discharge requirement from being renewed, reissued, or modified to contain effluent limitations or conditions that are less stringent than those in the previous permit, requirement, or waiver. AB 377 provisions are impractical, infeasible, and impossible to achieve. Farm Bureau and a large coalition of agricultural and business organizations are meeting with the author next week to inform him of our strong opposition in detail to the measure

WILDLIFE

[SB 252](#) (Scott Wiener, D - San Francisco) which was introduced last week is a bill that would change the designation of bears, or species *Ursus americanus*, to a non-game mammal. Since its introduction on January 25, the author has decided to pull the bill from consideration. Wiener claimed that higher priority issues, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, will be his focus moving forward in this legislative session. CFBF had concerns with the bill as it would have eliminated bear tags throughout the state and made hunting bears illegal. CFBF will continue to monitor the issue and make membership aware of any future legislative efforts regarding this topic.