



## 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.

June 10, 2022

### Agricultural Employment

[AB 2693](#) (Reyes) extends the requirement to report COVID-19 out-breaks until January 2025. Farm Bureau and other organizations representing employers in Sacramento oppose on grounds that such reporting because the availability of vaccines, treatments, and the advent of herd immunity renders such reporting unnecessary. AB 2693 passed the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee on a 4-1 vote and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 6. Staff: Bryan Little: [blittle@cfbf.com](mailto:blittle@cfbf.com)

### Animal Health & Welfare

The Department of Food and Agriculture released [draft changes](#) on Thursday to the proposed regulations regarding animal confinement – also known as Prop 12. CA Farm Bureau will review these changes and if a comment is warranted, staff will submit a letter by the deadline of June 24. Farm Bureau has expressed concern with the regulations throughout the process and will continue to engage CDFA staff. Staff: Katie Little, [klittle@cfbf.com](mailto:klittle@cfbf.com)

### Climate Change

Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) has moved [AB 2649](#) to be heard in the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday at 9am. This bill would set a state policy that the natural and working lands sector is responsible to sequester 60 million metric tons of carbon by 2030 and 75 million metric tons by 2035. This bill would also require 50% of the funds from all state program that services the natural and working lands sector (including but not limited to Healthy Soils, AMMP, SWEEP) to go to small and mid-sized farms and socially disadvantaged farmers. It would also require 30% of all funds provided to these programs to be offered for technical assistance. Farm Bureau will likely oppose the bill based on capacity and concerns regarding disruptions to existing and future programs. Staff: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cfbf.com](mailto:troschen@cfbf.com)

### Commodity

The Senate Governmental Organization Committee will be meeting on Tuesday at 9am to discuss [AB 778](#) (Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella). This Farm Bureau supported bill would require state institutions, except schools, to buy California agricultural products at certain targets: 50% by 2025, 60% by 2027 and 75% by 2030. Staff: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cfbf.com](mailto:troschen@cfbf.com)

The Senate Education Committee will be hearing [AB 558](#) (Adrin Nazarian, D-San Fernando) on Wednesday morning. This bill would offer an additional \$0.30 per meal for schools who choose to purchase plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy products. Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations are in opposition. Staff: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cfbf.com](mailto:troschen@cfbf.com)

## Elections

Tuesday, June 7 was the Primary Election in California. On the ballot were statewide constitutional offices, U.S. Senate, twenty of the forty State Senate seats, and all eighty Assembly offices, as well as primary contests for some county offices. Heading into the election, there were a few notable differences from years past. In December, new district lines for Congress, State Senate, and State Assembly were drawn. This means you might have someone new representing you in one of these offices. Beyond that, there were 18 resignations or retirements where a seat would be open for someone new. Combined, this election would be one full of new faces and new names.

Before the polls even closed on Tuesday, we knew there would be low turnout. How low remains to be seen as there are still millions of ballots to count, but with all 22 million California voters receiving a ballot, look for turnout percentages in the mid-twenties.

At the top of the ticket was the race for Governor, and with a recall election just nine months behind us, Gavin Newsom easily sailed to be the top vote getter in the contest. Bieber State Senator Brian Dahle clinched second and both will advance to the November General election on November 8, 2022. Other statewide contest outcomes are *listed below*:

Lieutenant Governor: Eleni Kounalakis (D) versus Angela Underwood Jacobs (R)

Secretary of State: Shirley Weber (D) versus Rob Bernosky (R)

Controller: Lanhee Chen (R) versus Malia Cohen (D)

Treasurer: Fiona Ma (D) versus Andrew Do (R)

U.S. Senate: Alex Padilla (D) versus Mark Meuser (R)

Insurance Commissioner: Ricardo Lara (D) versus Robert Howell (R). *This race is still too close to call.*

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Tony Thurmond (D) will face a second-place challenger. *This race is still too close to call.*

Candidates must pick which party they are registered as and how they want to identify to voters. In two races, one for Attorney General, and one for Governor, two candidates ran without a label and without a party preference. California voters rejected both in what seems like a rebuke to anything other than a two-party system. Farm Bureau has been closely tracking these and all the other races from Tuesday. We will continue to monitor all races until the election is certified.

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

## Feed

The Department of Food and Agriculture has announced two vacancies on the Feed Inspection Advisory Board Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC). This subcommittee provides technical and scientific advice to the Feed Inspection Advisory Board on animal food nutrition, safety and efficacy data review of new and unapproved feed ingredients, research project oversight and other issues. Applicants must have expertise in toxicology, pathology, ruminant and non-ruminant nutrition. The term is three years. Interested applicants should send a resume and a [questionnaire](#) to [SAFE@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:SAFE@cdfa.ca.gov) by July 2, 2022. Staff: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cfbf.com](mailto:troschen@cfbf.com)

## Forestry & Wildfire

**US Forest Service Solicitation** - The US Forest Service has issued Solicitation No. 12363N22Q4055 for the Pacific Southwest (PSW) Stewardship Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) covering Federal and local agency lands within 150 miles of the boundaries of the Plumas, Lassen, Modoc, Tahoe, LTBMU, Eldorado, Stanislaus, Sierra, Inyo, Sequoia, Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, Six Rivers, and Mendocino National Forests in California. Multiple awards will be made for this BPA on an individual National Forest basis once the Forest Service has evaluated the technical proposals and pricing submitted in response to the solicitation. Examples of the types of Hazardous Fuels and Restoration work that may be included are cutting and removal of sawtimber, non-sawtimber, and/or biomass; mastication, hand cutting and piling; and road maintenance.

The period of performance of the awarded Blanket Purchase Agreements is 10 years from date of contract with option to extend up to 20 years. This BPA will be the primary means in which future Call Orders issued include: (1) Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRSC) with required timber product removal; (2) Service-based IRSC that includes the option for Timber Subject to Agreement products to be removed when there is no required timber product removal; and (3) Restoration-based Service contract in which no timber product removal is included.

Future Call Orders for specific projects will be emailed to only the Contractors awarded under this BPA. As such, it is imperative that all interested individuals have an email account, and that all firms must be actively registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov> to be eligible for award under this solicitation. If not actively registered, the Forest Service will be unable to make a BPA award; thereby, effectively excluding an otherwise successful offeror from receiving a Call Order solicitation.

Registration in SAM is a free service. Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) offers resources that are available free of charge at [www.ptac-us.org/find-a-ptac/](http://www.ptac-us.org/find-a-ptac/) in order to assist with both SAM registration and in proposal submission. Join an informational and instructional meeting for industry and interested contractors on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. To join the meeting, *call (202) 650-0123 and enter Conference ID: 824 086 626#.*

Proposals for this BPA are due by 5:00 p.m. PT on Friday, July 15, 2022, and must be emailed to [mark.phillipp@usda.gov](mailto:mark.phillipp@usda.gov) and [nikki.layton@usda.gov](mailto:nikki.layton@usda.gov). Review the solicitation attachments [here](#). If you have any issues downloading the documents, contact Nikki Layton at [nikki.layton@usda.gov](mailto:nikki.layton@usda.gov). Technical questions should be emailed to Curtis Yocum at [curtis.yocum@usda.gov](mailto:curtis.yocum@usda.gov) and Brad Seaberg at [bradford.seaberg@usda.gov](mailto:bradford.seaberg@usda.gov) Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com)

## Pesticides

The Department of Pesticide Regulation will be hosting three workshops on June 27, 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> on the development of a statewide pesticide notification system. Below are live links to each workshop:

- [Monday, June 27: 1:00-3:00 P.M.](#)

- [Tuesday, June 28: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.](#)
- [Wednesday, June 29: 6:00-8:00 P.M.](#)

Four pilot projects are currently underway in Ventura, Riverside, Santa Cruz, and Stanislaus counties. More information about the individual pilots and the state's proposal can be found [here](#). Farm Bureau will be providing information to County Farm Bureaus and members interested in participating. Staff: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cbbf.com](mailto:troschen@cbbf.com)

The Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis (OPCA) is hosting a public conference on June 28, 2022 from 8:30am to 12:30pm. OPCA provides consultation to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) with a focus on the economic analysis of potential pesticide regulatory impacts and pest management alternatives that may mitigate impacts on production agriculture in California. The conference will host discussions their grant-funded research projects, including biological controls, mating disruption, and other reduced-risk pest management practices. Economists and scientists will also present on organic and integrated pest management practices, cost and return studies, and the tension between food safety and some alternative practices. Attendees may be able to obtain continuing education credits with the Department of Food and Agriculture. This conference will be hosted over zoom with the following link [here](#).

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## Transportation

This week, CARB held a Board Meeting to discuss the proposed [Advanced Clean Cars II](#) Regulations rulemaking proposal. According to staff, "the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) regulatory proposal will drive the sales of zero emission vehicles (ZEV) to 100-percent ZEVs in California by the 2035 model year while reducing smog-forming emissions from new internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs). Additionally, the proposed charging and ZEV assurance measures, which include proposals to set minimum warranty and durability requirements, increase serviceability, and facilitate battery labeling, will help ensure consumers can successfully replace their ICEVs within California households with new or used vehicles that meet their needs for transportation and protect the emission benefits of the program. These standards will also reduce the total cost of ownership for passenger cars and light trucks, saving drivers money in the long term and further promoting consumer adoption." Thursday's meeting focused on this sole agenda item as the Board heard from over 100 public commenters. CA Farm Bureau provided commentary that focused on the hurdles this regulation will pose on rural communities. In our testimony, CAFB acknowledged that "Our members and their employees, already face interconnection hurdles without this added burden. Increased utility rates and limited grid access currently effect management decisions, and farming practices. If there is not enough grid capacity or infrastructure today to operate water pumps and basic farm equipment, how can we expect enough additional capacity for electric charging for on-farm and employee vehicles?" In closing Farm Bureau added, "CAFB asks for a closer review of rural utility availability and capacity. This is a vital component of this proposed regulation which has yet to be addressed. Without a massive investment in rural CA, we will be left, quite literally, in the dark." An official 15-day comment period will open in the coming weeks. Farm Bureau will remain engaged on the issue. Staff: Katie Little, [klittle@cbbf.com](mailto:klittle@cbbf.com)

## Water

The State Water Resources Control Board curtailed the following water rights this week, effective Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>:

I. Water rights and claims on the following Sacramento River tributaries:

1. Post-1914 appropriative water rights and pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the Putah Creek subwatershed outside of the Legal Delta with a priority date of 1850 or later;
2. Post-1914 appropriative water rights and pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the Cache Creek subwatershed with a priority date of 1859 or later;
3. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Bear River subwatershed with a priority date of 1942 or later; and
4. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Stony Creek subwatershed with a priority date of 1957 or later.

II. Water rights and claims on the following San Joaquin River tributaries:

1. All post-1914 appropriative water rights, pre-1914 appropriative water right claims, and riparian water right claims in the Calaveras River subwatershed outside of the Legal Delta;
2. All post-1914 appropriative water rights, pre-1914 appropriative water right claims, and riparian water right claims in the Chowchilla River subwatershed; and
3. Post-1914 appropriative water rights and pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the Merced River subwatershed with a priority date of 1859 or later.

III. Post-1914 appropriative water rights and pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the San Joaquin River watershed outside of the Legal Delta with a priority date of 1900 or later.

Farm Bureau expects these curtailments to continue until significant precipitation occurs. The next water board curtailment status update is anticipated to be no later than June 14<sup>th</sup>. Click here on the [Delta Watershed Curtailment Status List](#) for the status of each water right and claim in the Delta watershed. More information about drought in the Delta watershed can be viewed at the [Delta Drought webpage](#). Staff: Danny Merkley, [dmerkley@cbbf.com](mailto:dmerkley@cbbf.com)

The State Water Resources Control Board staff held the second of three Water Rights and Water Quality Fees Stakeholder meetings this week. The first was in March after the Governor's proposed budget was released at the beginning of the year. This week's meeting provided estimated adjustments based on the May revisions to the budget, laying out what fees could ultimately look like for the 2022-23 fiscal year water quality programs and the Waste Discharge Permit Fund (WDPF). Current projections by water board staff are a \$1.4 million, or a .84 percent increase in the WDPF and a 7.2 percent increase in the Water Rights Fund. Staff will make a final recommendation to their board after the budget is adopted and budget trailer bills tell the complete picture. The board is expected to adopt the fee schedules in September. The projections below are considering the WDPF has a zero fund balance and is adjusted to achieve a 5 percent fund reserve. The WDPF

houses the following 8 programs and the water board staff is projecting the following increases for each program in the 2022-23 FY:

1. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)-6.6% increase
2. Land Disposal-5.2% increase
3. WQC (401 certs)-25.6% increase
4. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Stormwater-1.4% increase
5. NPDES for Wastewater-5.5% increase
6. Confined Animal Facilities (CAF)-4.4% increase
7. Ag Lands (ILRP)-6.8% increase
8. Cannabis-5.0% (which is still a standalone program that the other 7 do not subsidize).

Foundational programs are spread across all WDPF programs and it accounts for about 30 percent overall. Foundational programs include:

1. Basin Planning
2. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
3. Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)
4. Groundwater Ambient Monitoring (GAMA)
5. SWRCB Fee Staff costs
6. Monitoring
7. Enforcement
8. Inspections
9. Etc.

The California Farm Bureau is monitoring all Fee Stakeholder meetings and advocating for general fund dollars to support the fees during these times of a healthy state budget and tough economic times in agriculture due to the drought. Staff: Danny Merkley, [dmerkley@cbbf.com](mailto:dmerkley@cbbf.com)

## Wildlife

The California Fish and Game Commission will hold a meeting next week to discuss the petition to list the Western Joshua Tree (WJT) under CESA, among other agenda items. Last week, CA Farm Bureau joined a large coalition to oppose the petition. After reviewing the documents, CAFB and our partners support the recommendation by the Department of Fish and Wildlife that the recommended action to list the WJT as threatened is not warranted and urge the California Fish and Game Commission to deny the petition. According to the Department as stated in its report, "The recent demographic trend information available to the Department suggests that density or extent of some populations may decline by the end of the 21st century (2100), but due to continuing recruitment, high abundance, widespread distribution, and the longevity of the species, the available demographic data does not currently suggest that western Joshua tree is likely to be at risk of disappearing from a significant portion of its range during this timeframe." The Department's report further states that "the best scientific information available to the Department at this time indicates that WJT is not in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease, and is not likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of special protection and management efforts

required by CESA.” For these reasons, the organizations who signed onto the coalition letter respectfully request that the California Fish and Game Commission deny the petition to list the Western Joshua Tree as threatened. *Staff: Katie Little, [klittle@cbbf.com](mailto:klittle@cbbf.com)*