



March 1, 2019

Agriculture, Generally

The State Board of Food and Agriculture will be meeting on Tuesday, March 5th at 1220 N Street in Sacramento to discuss SGMA Implementation, an update on the Bay Delta, the California Water Plan and the Department of Food and Agriculture's Climate Smart Agricultural Program and Industrial Hemp Program. Farm Bureau staff will attend the meeting and can be viewed via webcast [here](#). The California Department of Food and Agriculture has announced \$4.5 million available until March 2022 for the new Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program. This program will fund energy efficient refrigeration units in corner stores and small businesses in food deserts throughout the state to stock California-grown fresh produce, nuts, and minimally processed foods. A range of applicants are eligible to apply, including corner stores (or their equivalents, such as bodegas or neighborhood stores), small businesses, and cities, counties, and nonprofits with healthy retail programs. Grant proposals are due by Thursday, April 25th by 5pm. More opportunities on the Program and the application is available [here](#). *Contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Air Quality

[SB 210](#), (Leyva) would create an inspection and maintenance program for heavy-duty diesel vehicles. This bill would essentially create a smog-check program for heavy-duty vehicles and prevent their use if a vehicles malfunction indicator light is illuminated. The Air Resources Board is in the process of developing a similar program as part of the State Implementation Plan for San Joaquin Valley PM 2.5. Farm Bureau is working with the author's office to address concerns on the impacts this program could have on heavy-duty trucks used in agriculture. *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

Cannabis

Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel) has introduced [SB 657](#), which is a reintroduction of a failed 2018 bill [SB 1459](#), (Anthony Cannella, R-Ceres). SB 657 would authorize County Agricultural Commissioners to include cannabis cultivation data (including state and local license type, production totals and pricing tiers) as an addendum to annual crop reports. Farm Bureau is working with the author and sponsor to advocate for protection of the Food and Agricultural Code, the potential workload increases to County Agricultural Commissioners and utilize the State's existing Track-and-Trace program to achieve the proposed cannabis data collection. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen at 916-446-4647 or troschen@cfbf.com*

Climate Change

[AB 1284](#), (Carrillo) would require the Air Resources Board to adopt a regulation defining carbon neutrality. It is unclear if the regulation would also include mandates for the state to achieve carbon neutrality. Farm Bureau will be watching this bill closely to limit potential costs on farmers and ranchers. *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

[AB 1445](#), (Gloria) would create a policy for California that our economy be converted to zero greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2030 with an immediate phaseout of fossil fuels. Farm Bureau has significant concerns with the impacts of the proposal if actions are taken to implement the proposed policy. Staff contact: *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

Environmental Regulations

[AB 939](#), (Frazier) would require the California Environmental Protection Agency and the various departments, boards, and commissions that it oversees to provide the public with materials and presentations at least 72 hours prior to any workshops or other proceedings. Farm Bureau is supporting this bill. *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

[SB 1](#), (Atkins) would require state environmental and labor agencies to review changes to federal law and regulation and consider adopting state regulations that would ensure no labor or environmental protections are lost due to federal modifications. The law gives specific authority to the California Air Resources Board, State Water Resources Control Board, Fish and Game Commission, Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, and Department of Industrial Relations. The proposed bill also gives individuals the authority to sue to enforce the federal standards as they were in place in January 2017. *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

Industrial Hemp

The Department of Food and Agriculture has submitted a regulatory package to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) to establish a \$900 annual registration fee for commercial industrial hemp cultivators. Upon receipt, OAL has 30 working days to review the draft regulation, after which they will publish it in the next Notice Register with an effective date of July 1st. Farm Bureau has formally requested CDFA petition OAL for an immediate effective date upon completion of the 30-day timeline, allowing for an effective date of April 11th, which may give County Agricultural Commissioners time to register growers and allow for plantings within the Spring season. Following Friday Reviews will report of this request is heeded. The proposed text can be read [here](#). *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Nutrition

Assemblymember, Susan Eggman (D-Stockton) has introduced [AB 614](#), which would expand the list of food eligible for donation to food banks in exchange for an income tax credit for donators. Existing law limits eligibility to fresh fruits and vegetables; this bill proposes to also include all meat food products, poultry, eggs, fish, rice, beans, dried fruits and vegetables, infant formula, and processed foods, such as oil, soup, pasta, bread, and canned meats. This would mean that processors and packers would also be eligible for this tax credit. Farm Bureau is in support. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

[AB 479](#), (Nazarian and Kalra) would provide funds to local school districts to provide plant-based school meals. These reimbursements would be made available only if the school district served more plant-based meals than it did in the 2018-19 school year and the Air Resources Board (ARB) has determined that the plant-based milk option served has lower greenhouse gas emissions than cow's milk. The bill also requires ARB to determine the average reductions in greenhouse gas emissions when replacing meat with plant-based meal options. Farm Bureau is working with a coalition of agricultural organizations to oppose this bill. *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

Rural Health and Safety

As reported upon in previous Friday Reviews, [AB 215](#) (Mathis, R-Visalia), a bill which would establish distinct criminal penalties for illegal dumping on private property and double that penalty for the dumping of used tires, is strongly supported by Farm Bureau. The bill passed Assembly Public Safety Committee and has been assigned to Assembly Appropriations to be heard in future weeks. Farm Bureau will testify in support of this measure at that time. In the interest of rural health and access, Assemblymember Grayson (D-Concord) has reintroduced a bill vetoed by Governor Brown last year, [AB 651](#), which seeks to exempt patients from being liable for excess costs related to emergency air transportation, and by extension, would allow for the continued access to essential air ambulatory services in rural areas. Farm Bureau is in support. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen at 916-446-4647 or troschen@cfbf.com.*

Water Fund

Four measures have been introduced recently to establish a drinking water fund.

- [AB 134](#), (Richard Bloom, D-Santa Monica) is a spot bill with substantial language yet to come. The measure states the intent of the Legislature to adopt policies to ensure that every Californian has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible drinking water.
- [AB 217](#), (Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella) would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.
- [SB 200](#), (Bill Monning, D-Carmel) would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. Previously, Senator Monning introduced [SB 623](#) that would have established the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and identified funding sources from:
 - A fertilizer tax of \$0.006 per dollar of sales generating approximately \$18 to \$19 million per year,
 - A \$0.01355 deduction per cwt. from milk producers payments,
 - A tax on Confined Animal Facilities (excluding dairies, but including bovine, poultry, swine and other livestock operations),
 - A water tax of \$0.95 per month on residential public water system customers and a \$4.00, \$6.00 and \$10.00 per month tax on larger commercial water meter customers.
- [SB 669](#), (Anna Caballero, D-Salinas) would establish a Trust Fund with a one-time contribution of State General Fund dollars while the state budget is flush, using the interest earnings each year for a Drinking Water Fund.

Two measures have been introduced to facilitate groundwater recharge.

- [AB 441](#), (Susan Eggman, D-Stockton) would establish groundwater recharge as a beneficial use in the California Water Code. The measure has substantial language yet to come.
- [AB 658](#), (Joaquin Arambula, D-Fresno) would establish a framework for temporary permits to divert surface water for groundwater recharge. *Contact: Danny Merkley, dmerkley@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

Wildlife

[AB 273](#), (Gonzalez) would prohibit trapping fur-bearing mammals or nongame mammals for recreation or commerce in fur. While trapping for depredation purposes would still be allowed, depredation trapping where furs are sold would now be prohibited. Farm Bureau is opposed. *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

[AB 454](#), (Kalra) would give the Department of Fish and Wildlife the authority to develop regulations to protect migratory birds. This bill is in response to changes in interpretation by the federal government of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Farm Bureau is concerned about the impact state regulations may have on

farming and ranching and is working with the sponsors of the bill to address our concerns *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

[AJR 8](#), (Quirk) would urge the U.S. Congress to add California to the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 and request an appropriation pursuant to that law of \$4 million to assist the state in eradicating Nutria. Farm Bureau is supporting AJR 8. *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

[SB 62](#), (Dodd) would continue the accidental take provisions of the California Endangered Species Act. Accidental take provides liability protection when take occurs accidentally on a farm or ranch during otherwise lawful routine and ongoing agricultural activities. Farm Bureau is sponsoring SB 62, which is set for its first committee hearing on March 12th in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. *Contact: Noelle Cremers, ncremers@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*