



From Sacramento to D.C. Advocacy in Action

August 26th, 2024



State Affairs

Launch of Sites Reservoir Project Hearings

On August 19, the State Water Resources Control Board's Administrative Hearings Office began a monthslong process to hear evidence that will help them decide whether to approve the water right permit application filed by the Sites Reservoir Authority for the Sites Reservoir Project, a proposed 1.5-million-acre-foot offstream reservoir in Colusa County. The first day of hearings was reserved for oral policy statements by Sites proponents and supporters, including California Farm Bureau, which are archived [online and available to stream](#). The hearing process will resume on August 27 and continue through mid-2025. Background on the project, hearings process, and full schedule are available from the [AHO](#). Staff Contact: Alex Biering; abiering@cfbf.com

Public Comments on CVP Operations Closes September

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold its final public meeting on September 5 to receive comments on the public draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP. The public draft EIS evaluates four alternatives and a no action alternative. The alternatives cover CVP service areas and the operation of CVP dams, power plants, diversions, canals, gates and related federal facilities located on the Clear Creek watershed of the Trinity River Division, the Sacramento, American, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin rivers, and CVP and SWP facilities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. The September 5 meeting will be held virtually from 3-5 PM. Meeting login details, links to review the document, and an interactive story map explaining the purpose of this process are on Reclamation's ["reconsultation" website](#). CA Farm Bureau plans to submit written comments, which are due to Reclamation by September 9. Staff Contact: Alex Biering; abiering@cfbf.com

Paraquat

Assembly Bill 1963 (Friedman D - Glendale) related to cancellation of Paraquat was recently voted out of the Senate Appropriations Committee with amendments which required an update from DPR on the progress of the reevaluation of this active ingredient by March of 2027. The legislation would require this reevaluation to be completed by DPR before January 2029. The bill is currently on the Senate floor awaiting to be heard and the Farm Bureau and other

agricultural organizations continue to oppose and meet with Senate legislative offices to stop this from moving forward. Staff Contact: Chris Reardon; creardon@cfbf.com

Caltrans Pesticide Application Bill

Assembly Bill AB 99 (Connolly D - San Rafael) was released from suspense after it was held in Senate Appropriations last year. As a refresher, this bill would require the Department of Transportation to adopt by January 1st, 2026, a statewide policy to use integrated pest management on state roads and highways and report on its website about its use and application of pesticides. This is a deference to local and more prohibitive weed management standards, and a 24-hour public notice requirement prior to using any pesticide, which is of concern to agricultural groups. We are collaborating with Caltrans to understand the wide range of fiscal impacts this mandate would have and will be sending a floor alert out to the Senate this upcoming week. Staff Contact: Isabella Quinonez; iquinonez@cfbf.com

Upcoming Dairy Research

California Farm Bureau submitted a letter of support on behalf of California Dairy Research Foundation on a US Department of Energy (DOE) Bioenergy Technology Office project. The project will support the development of planning and strategies for utilizing organic waste as a feedstock for various transportation fuel end products. CDRF is collaborating with Sandia Laboratories, Dairy Cares and CalBio on a proposal to conduct a scoping project that would evaluate the environmental and economic impacts of utilizing dairy anaerobic digester effluent on a wide scale for the development of hydrogen fuels.

This project would provide valuable information to our industry regarding future options for digesters/income generating pathways. Most of our other anaerobic digesters are currently producing RNG which is considered a bridge fuel- the state/feds are looking to move towards other fuels for the future. This project would allow us to leverage DOE funds to scope out how the dairy industry could utilize its clusters and other digesters to provide hydrogen fuels and continue to capture additional revenue for dairy producers as the demand for biofuels changes. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

CARB Clean Truck Check Fact Sheet

CARB has put out a new fact sheet providing an overview of the requirements for agricultural vehicles that must comply with Clean Truck Check. It is available [here](#).

As a reminder, in 2024, vehicles are required to ensure that they have paid their annual 2024 compliance fee and have no outstanding enforcement violations as part of their compliance demonstration. While you do not have a 2024 deadline for your emissions compliance test, Clean Truck Check Credentialed Testers may submit passing Clean Truck Check emissions compliance tests up to 90 calendar days prior to the vehicle's 2025 compliance deadline. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

CARB Dairy Workshop

On August 22, the California Air Resources Board held a dairy workshop in Fresno to discuss current incentive programs and the future of these programs. They unveiled new CADD modeling around dairies meeting emissions and the data found that incentives like dairy digesters do not increase herd size, and there is not enough data to say if the Low Carbon Fuel Standard increases herd size. This hearing opens the beginning of a comment period which closes on October 22. Comments may be submitted [here](#). Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

Sustainability Coalition

California Farm Bureau has joined coalition partners asking for a meeting with Governor Gavin Newsom about continued concerns around how to sustain investment, jobs, and businesses while building the infrastructure necessary to facilitate regulatory compliance and a successful transition to new and cleaner technologies. The coalition represents California cities, counties, businesses, labor, farmers, and our supply chain. These coalition members are impacted by current state policies that threaten our growth, our future, and, in turn, our ability to achieve shared environmental goals without sacrificing communities and jobs. If you would like your organization added, please send me your logo by August 30. Links to letters can be found down below. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

[Sustainability Coalition Letter to Gavin Newsom](#)

[ISR Letter to LA-LB Mayors](#)



Canadian Rail Worker Strike to Impact US

Last week, nearly 10,000 Canadian rail workers entered a strike over disagreements on pay and working conditions with the Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway. The two companies own roughly 80% of track miles across the country and disruptions between the US and Canada are expected to be significant. Per a recent [AFBF Market Intel piece](#), barley, ethanol, and fertilizer are just some of the key commodities transiting across state lines via rail. While the main rail arteries between the two countries are mostly across the Midwest, the indirect impacts could be felt acutely across the US ag industry. AFBF and other

organizations sent a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, urging the government to step in and negotiate a quick solution. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com

Call to Action: USDA Seeks Nominations for Voluntary Carbon Credit Advisory Council

Last Wednesday, USDA today published a notice announcing the [establishment](#) of the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program Advisory Council (informally known as the Growing Climate Solutions Act Advisory Council) and is currently seeking nominations from the private sector. Members will review and recommend changes related to the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program. Additionally, the council will advise USDA on the current methods used in markets to quantify and verify emission reductions or mitigation measures and ways to make it easier and cheaper to enter these environmental credit markets. Members are encouraged to read more here and reach out if they have an interest in being nominated. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com

EPA to Host Webinar on Draft Insecticide Strategy

On September 5th, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will host a webinar on their draft insecticide strategy. It is intended to provide an overview of the three-step framework that has been proposed as well as case studies to illustrate how it could be applied, and an opportunity for the public to speak and ask questions. CAFB has been tracking this closely and worked with coalition partners to underscore the importance of a science-based approach that considers the practical needs of producers. Those interested can register [here](#). Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com

Few Answers on Dacthal Suspension

Unfortunately, we don't have much of an update following the EPA's emergency suspension of dacthal (or DCPA). They [announced](#) the suspension on August 6th but have yet to provide any public updates regarding guidance for producers, wholesalers, and retailers. This has led to several direct and indirect impacts across the supply chain, and we continue to seek additional clarity regarding disposal, contract fulfillment, and liability questions. Staff Contacts: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com and Isabella Quinonez; iquinonez@cfbf.com