



Top 3 Stories

1. Tule Subbasin Probationary Action

During a [hearing](#) in Sacramento on September 17, the State Water Resources Control Board voted to place the Tule Subbasin, which includes portions of Tulare and Kern counties, on probation under the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). The board determined that the basin's groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) do not protect groundwater supplies and that continued over pumping in parts of the basin threatened shallow and domestic wells and the integrity of critical infrastructure, such as the Friant-Kern Canal. Under the resolution passed by the board, starting on January 1, 2025, groundwater pumpers in the subbasin pumping at least 500 acre-feet of water annually must monitor or meter their water use, report their groundwater use to the board, and pay a fee of \$300 annually per well and \$20 per acre-foot of water pumped. Two of the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in the basin - the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District and Kern-Tulare Water District - were determined to be adequately managing groundwater in their portions of the basin and were therefore exempted from reporting requirements and associated fees as long as they remain in compliance with management actions implemented by their GSAs. Farm Bureau participated in the hearing and provided oral and written comments. Staff Contact: Alex Biering; abiering@cfbf.com.

2. Potential Shutdown Looms Over House Challenges

Heading into the week, lawmakers are inching closer towards a federal government shutdown as House Republican efforts to pass a continuing resolution (or "CR") have faltered. With an end-of-September deadline to keep the lights on, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has thus far been unable to corral his party to support a short-term stopgap. His current proposal would only fund government through early next year, possibly saddling the next president with a high-stakes funding fight early into their administration. The Freedom Caucus wing is also hoping to include the SAVE Act, which places more stringent ID requirements for registering to vote.

Given the partisan issues, few Democrats have been willing to support the initial votes that have tested the political waters. It remains to be seen if the Speaker will instead turn to the other party for a bipartisan effort to stem off a shutdown. With the election around a month and a half away, the political fallout of a shutdown could prove highly problematic to whichever party gets the blame. With lawmakers expected to be on the campaign trail for the near entirety of October, the legislative session will only resume in the "lame duck" period post-election. It is

our hope a full 5-year reauthorization of the Farm Bill can be passed during this narrow window. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com

3. Recharge-focused Field Hearing by Assembly Agriculture and Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committees

On September 17, a [joint legislative informational hearing](#) focused on groundwater recharge was held in Merced. Speakers included researchers, farmers, state agency officials, and community members, and discussions focused on how to encourage recharge in wet years and concerns related to permitting. Background material and briefing documents are [available online](#). Merced County Farm Bureau staff provided comments during the hearing and California Farm Bureau attended, also. Staff Contacts: Chris Reardon, creardon@cfbf.com; Alex Biering, abiering@cfbf.com



Insurance

Assembly Committee on Insurance Informational Hearing

The Assembly Committee on Insurance held an informational hearing on September 17, featuring an update from Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara on his Sustainable Insurance Strategy. Commissioner Lara stated that in October, the Department of Insurance will promulgate draft regulations regarding insurers' ability to pass through reinsurance costs to California consumers for the first time. The inclusion of reinsurance has been one of the major components, along with catastrophe modeling, that insurers have requested from the Department in regulatory reform. Farm Bureau provided comments on the Department's catastrophe modeling draft regulations multiple times over the past 18 months. The Commissioner reviewed updates to the FAIR Plan that increase commercial coverage to a maximum of \$100 million per parcel and up to \$20 million per building on those parcels. Assembly Committee members asked the Commissioner about the intervenor process and the FAIR Plan. You can watch the hearing [here](#).

While the Assembly held this hearing, the Department of Insurance held a Zoom webinar to receive public comments on its most recently published catastrophe modeling regulations. As discussed previously, Farm Bureau provided extensive written comments to the Department, focusing on the need for insurance modeling to recognize the low wildfire propagation risk on managed farm and ranch lands. Staff Contact: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Livestock

California Farm Bureau submits comments on CDFA proposal for mobile meat slaughtering

Stemming from AB-888 (2021), CDFA released proposals for amendments to the food and ag code. CAFB submitted comments regarding CDFA's proposal for mobile custom livestock slaughter. CAFB was supportive of the one-time licensing fee of \$100 and thankful to CDFA for continuing to keep the personal use exemption in the program. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

Transportation

California Farm Bureau comments on CARB and EJAC joint meeting

At a recent joint hearing between CARB Board members and the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, CAFB staff delivered comments opposing direct regulation of dairies, and reiterating the need for science-based decisions around a crop-based fuel caps in any revision of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

California Farm Bureau submits comment to EPA opposing CARB request for waiver of preemption and authorization

California Farm Bureau submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the proposed authorization and waiver for preemption of the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation. The proposed regulations require drayage truck fleets, as well as large commercial fleets that own, lease, or operate on-road medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles to incorporate zero-emitting vehicles (ZEV) in an extremely short frame, with an originally intended enforcement date of January 2024. Additionally, the proposal requires that all new California-certified medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales be ZEV starting in 2036. Elements of the regulations also apply to off-road engines and equipment, specifically off-road yard tractors and forklifts.

If the ACF regulations are authorized by the EPA, we believe the country's agriculture industry would be significantly hindered financially and operationally. The inevitable increases in transportation costs and the introduction of operational inefficiencies for agricultural producers and ag-servicing truckers would result in higher food prices and less reliable food availability. The item on the federal register and the comments are available [here](#). Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

CARB Postpones Advanced Clean Fleets Webinar on Amendments

California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff is postponing the Workshop on Targeted Amendments to the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation previously scheduled for September 24, 2024. Please note the new date below. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

New Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

In-Person: [California EPA Headquarters, Coastal Hearing Room](#)

1001 I Street Sacramento, California

Webinar: [Zoom](#)

The following is a summary of proposed amendments to be discussed at the workshop:

- A definition of traditional utility-specialized vehicles
- Modifying eligibility criteria for a ZEV Purchase Exemption for a new traditional utility-specialized vehicle without regard to the model year of the vehicle being replaced
- Necessary changes to the Daily Usage exemption to allow for broader usage data for traditional utility-specialized vehicles that do not exclusively rely on the lowest mileage reading and do not exclude the highest usage days
- Minor edits to the transit fleet vehicle definition and other updates or clarifications

Meeting materials will be made available in advance of the workshop on the Advanced Clean Fleets - Meetings & Events website. The draft rulemaking language will be made available and posted online before the meeting. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

Clean Truck Check Reminder

If you are a Vehicle Owner:

1. Webinars will be held on Oct. 9th Wednesday, & Nov. 12th Tuesday. Register next week at [Reporting Resources \(CTC-VIS\) | California Air Resources Board](#).
 - Please only register if you are able to attend as we are limited to 1,000 participants, and please also refrain from multiple users per company registering.
 - If you register and are subsequently unable to attend, please email hdim@arb.ca.gov and request to be removed.
2. Emissions Testing becomes effective 10/1/24. Please check your CTC-VIS account for your testing deadlines. The earliest due date for a passing test is 1/1/25. [Emissions Compliance Testing Requirements for Clean Truck Check |Español |ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#).

3. CTC-VIS will be updated to show testing due dates and other testing information on October 1, 2024.

If you are a Credentialed Tester:

4. Webinars will be held on Oct. 9th Wednesday, & Nov. 12th Tuesday. Register next week at [Reporting Resources \(CTC-VIS\) | California Air Resources Board](#).
 - o Please only register if you are able to attend as we are limited to 1,000 participants, and please also refrain from multiple users per company registering.
 - o If you register and are subsequently unable to attend, please email hdim@arb.ca.gov and request to be removed.
5. You will be able to create your own TESTER account at Cleantruckcheck.arb.ca.gov on October 1, 2024, to view test submissions.
 - o This will be covered in the webinar as well as future fact sheets and user guides.
6. Emissions Testing becomes effective 10/1/24. Please check your CTC-VIS account for your testing deadlines. The earliest due date for a passing test is 1/1/25. [Emissions Compliance Testing Requirements for Clean Truck Check |Español |ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#).
7. CARB will no longer email OBD test results in a PDF document to credentialed testers effective October 1, 2024. To view test results, credentialed testers will be required to create their accounts in CTC-VIS starting on October 1 2024.
 - o This change does not affect how credentialed testers submit OBD tests to CARB, only how they obtain and view the results. The process for submitting non-OBD tests and obtaining the results will remain the same until March 2025.

Specific instructions to create a credentialed tester account will be provided soon. CARB staff will release training videos, webinars, and fact sheets in September 2024 with additional information to educate credentialed testers and vehicle owners about upcoming CTC-VIS changes. If you have specific questions, please email hdim@arb.ca.gov. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

CARB Survey on Cal Fleet Advisor

CARB is soliciting your input on their program Cal Fleet Advisor. This survey is specifically designed for fleets operating vehicles weighing more than 8,500 lbs and aims to gather valuable insights that will help improve the resources and services available to fleets. The survey is entirely anonymous, so you can share your thoughts freely. Any free-form responses will be summarized to protect your identity. Staff Contact: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com



Federal Affairs

Upcoming Grower Webinar: Monarch Butterflies and Farming

The monarch butterfly is scheduled to be listed as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in December 2024. In conjunction with Western Growers and CAPCA, California Farm Bureau will host a webinar for growers to learn about the forthcoming listing as well as EPA's Workplan to Protect Endangered Species and Threatened Species from Pesticides. The free webinar will be on October 8, 2024, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. Please register here: <https://go.wga.com/esa-listing-monarch-butterflies-new-epa-regulation>. Staff Contacts: Kari Fisher; kfisher@cfbf.com and Erin Huston; ehuston@cfbf.com

USDA Launches Online Debt Consolidation Tool for Farmer and Rancher Viability

USDA has launched a new [Debt Consolidation Tool](#) on farmers.gov, designed to help agricultural producers manage their farm operating debt. This online tool allows farmers and ranchers to evaluate potential savings by consolidating existing loans into one, which could lead to lower interest rates and more favorable payment terms. The goal is to provide financial flexibility and stability, ensuring that farmers can focus on growing their operations while building long-term equity. No login is required.

Alongside the Debt Consolidation Tool, recent changes to the Farm Loan Program streamline the loan application process and offer additional resources like an interactive Loan Assistance Tool and an online loan repayment feature. Producers are encouraged to reach out to their local FSA office to explore all available options for strengthening their financial future. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com

\$500 Million Provided in Funding for NRCS' Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Earlier this month, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced \$500 million in funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) for FY25. The program helps landowners and other eligible entities conserve, restore, and protect wetlands, productive agricultural lands, and grasslands at risk of conversion to non-grassland uses. Those interested in learning more can click here for additional information. NRCS accepts applications year-round for ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE). Interested producers and landowners should apply by the next two ranking dates, Oct. 4, 2024, or Dec. 20, 2024, at their local NRCS office, to be considered for these two state-led funding cycles. Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl; mviohl@cfbf.com

Notices and Announcements

Cal Poly Humboldt - Public Catastrophe Model Development

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and Cal Poly Humboldt announced that they will form a strategy group to undertake the nation's first public wildfire catastrophe model. The strategy group will draw from California's research and higher education communities to make recommendations for a new, publicly accessible data source to predict future wildfire losses. This effort will support California's goals of building safer communities and expanding access to insurance coverage.

What you should know:

- The Department of Insurance and Cal Poly Humboldt are forming a strategy group to make recommendations for a "public wildfire catastrophe model" that will be a "first of its kind" for California and the nation when it is completed.
- A public wildfire catastrophe model predicts future losses and can be a benchmark for fair and accurate insurance rates, provide accessible data for wildfire safety efforts, and create educational and career opportunities for California students.
- Cal Poly Humboldt will chair the strategy group and invite researchers and higher education leaders from across California State University, the University of California, and other areas. Cal Poly Humboldt is home to one of California's three accredited forestry programs and part of the California State University, the nation's largest public university system.
- The strategy group will create recommendations for a public wildfire catastrophe model in alignment with a new regulation on catastrophe modeling and ratemaking that the Department of Insurance is finalizing by December 2024.
- The strategy group will present its recommendations to the Insurance Commissioner by April 2025 which identifies the next steps for technical needs, public benefits, and potential funding sources.

The partnership between public universities and a state regulator is unique in the California government. Cal Poly Humboldt Dean of the College of Natural Resources Eric Riggs will serve as the chair for the strategy group and invite experts in climate science, forestry, and wildfire safety education from across the California State University system and other universities and non-profits engaged in wildfire safety. The strategy group will create recommendations to submit to Commissioner Lara by April 2025, an ambitious six-month timeline keeping California at the forefront of climate innovation and consumer protection.

Office of the State Fire Marshal Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act Webinar for Farms

The next OSFM APSA webinar will be held during the first week of October. This webinar will be offered on two different days, and the topic will cover farms. Use the following links below to join the webinar and email cupa@fire.ca.gov if there are issues.

October 2 at 2:00-2:45 PM:

[Join the October 2 webinar via Microsoft Teams](#)

(https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTM3NTkyYTYtNjMyNi00ZWY2LWJmNmUtNGRmNWEzZjk2ZmNh%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22447a4ca0-5405-454d-ad68-c98a520261f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2255dd5151-2626-4f47-82ff-87b7f7bc788f%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 214 986 302 579

Passcode: zwpmjq

Dial in by phone: +1 (650) 564-3271

Phone conference ID: 257 811 136#

October 3 at 10:00-10:45 AM:

[Join the October 3 webinar via Microsoft Teams](#)

(https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTBIYjMzODItZWY4MS00YjlmLWJjOGMtY2U2NWJmNzcxMjc1%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22447a4ca0-5405-454d-ad68-c98a520261f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2255dd5151-2626-4f47-82ff-87b7f7bc788f%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 219 189 098 348

Passcode: wJB7iw

Dian in by phone: +1 (650) 564-3271

Phone conference ID: 322 227 046#