



## 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.

**January 19, 2024**

### Forestry and Wildfire

[SB 571](#) authored by Senator Ben Allen (D Santa Monica), was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File. This is a gut and amend two-year bill says that by 2027, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection will make a report about how to make communities safer from wildfire by determining minimum ingress and egress requirements. The board would be required to hold public hearings on proposed rules (as part of the board's minimum safe standards). *Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com)*

### Insurance

[AB 1844](#) authored by Assembly member Lisa Calderon (D City of Industry), was introduced this week. This bill would require the Speaker of the Assembly and the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Rules to serve as nonvoting, ex officio members of FAIR Plan's governing committee, and would authorize each to name a designee to serve in their place. Currently, the FAIR Plan is governed by nine annually elected insurers, as well as nonvoting members comprised of one representative of insurance agents, one representative of insurance brokers, one representative of surplus line brokers, and one representative of the public, each to be appointed by the Governor. *Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com)*

On Thursday evening, the Assembly Committee on Insurance held a briefing featuring Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara to inform policy makers about the effort to restore stability and competition to California's insurance market. *Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com)*

### GRANT APPLICATIONS

CAL FIRE is soliciting applications for California business and workforce development projects that support healthy resilient forests and the people and ecosystems that depend on them. Competitive projects will sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A total of \$20 million in funding is available. Applications will be accepted until midnight on March 8, 2024. To apply, go to the Wood Products and Bioenergy webpage for a link to start your application [here](#).

This grant funding will create financial incentives for industries to invest in clean technologies, develop innovative ways to process wood products, and support the growth of a strong forest-sector workforce. A virtual pre-recorded workshop is available to explain the grant process and requirements.

Questions can be directed to [WoodProducts@fire.ca.gov](mailto:WoodProducts@fire.ca.gov). Projects that receive funding from this grant program are designed to complement the California Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan, California's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan, California's Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire, and AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan.

Business and Workforce grants are part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. *Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com)*

## Organics

The Farm Bureau has actively participated in recent listening sessions related to CDFA's development of a definition for regenerative agriculture. We continue to be very concerned about the direction of the discussions and plan to submit detailed comments to the department outlining our concerns and providing some useful suggestions for moving forward. As many of you already know, the regulatory challenges in this state are already confusing and adding a term like regenerative to organic and sustainable has potential production and market implications. *Staff: Chris Reardon, [creardon@cfbf.com](mailto:creardon@cfbf.com)*

## Water

### **LAO REPORT BLASTS WATER CONSERVATION MANDATE REGULATIONS**

On January 4, the California Legislative Analyst's Office released a scathing report analyzing the State Water Board's efforts to develop and implement the "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" regulation that sets water use objectives for urban water agencies. The report, titled "[Assessing Early Implementation of Urban Water Use Efficiency Requirements](#)," concludes that the board's draft regulations would only result in a savings of 440,000 acre-feet of water, which represents about 1% of California's annual water use, but would come at a cost of \$13.5 billion. *Staff: Alex Biering, [abiering@cfbf.com](mailto:abiering@cfbf.com)*

### **WATER COMMISSION'S FINAL DROUGHT WHITE PAPER RELEASED**

On January 17, the California Water Commission approved a [white paper](#) focused on strategies to protect water supplies for communities, fish, and wildlife during future droughts. The white paper was developed following months of public workshops and at the direction of the Newsom Administration's [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) Action 26.3. Key conclusions and strategies in the paper: (1) California must greatly expand its use of floodwater for recharge and ease permitting and regulatory hurdles to allow this; (2) watershed-level drought planning can help the state prioritize actions quickly to help fish and wildlife during droughts; (3) climate disaster funding will help local and regional community response during acute droughts; and (4) recognizing drought and flood as natural cycles and aligning state resources to respond will prevent us from constantly being in a reactionary crisis mode. *Staff: Alex Biering, [abiering@cfbf.com](mailto:abiering@cfbf.com)*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the State Fire Marshal holding public hearing on January 19, 2024 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm regarding proposed regulations related to the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act. See details below:

## OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM) Public Hearing

The Office of the State Fire Marshal Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) for OSFM's amendments concerning regulations relating to Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) program element of the California Unified Program was originally published in the Notice Register 2023, Number 44-Z, November 3, 2023, page 1418.

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/code-development-and-analysis/title-19-development>

The Public Hearing will be hosted on Microsoft Teams and in person.

### In Person:

CAL FIRE 710 Riverpoint Court, Suite 150  
Conference Room 101  
West Sacramento, CA 95605

### Teams (Remote Participation):

Meeting ID: 240 154 319 261  
Passcode: y2dfQe

[Click Here to Join the Meeting](#) or  
Teleconference number- audio only  
+1 650-564-3271  
Phone Conference ID: 712 737 262#

### Documents:

The complete text of the Notice, the Initial Statement of Reasons, the Express Terms (TEXT), and any other materials concerning this rulemaking are available on the Office of the State Fire Marshal's website for this rulemaking at:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/code-development-and-analysis/title-19-development>

Please reach out to the Agency Contacts for any questions or assistance:

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## **JOINT INSTITUTE FOR WOOD PRODUCTS INNOVATION SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation (Institute) is requesting nominations for vacancies within its Advisory Council. The Institute is a committee of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) and consists of two co-chairs, two academic positions, 11 Council members, and one Board staff. Council members reflect a diversity of perspectives and expertise, which may include forest products, forest management, environmental conservation, finance/investment, forested communities, rural economic development, tribes, and other areas of interest as determined by the Board.

The Institute facilitates the development and expansion of a robust and sustainable forest products market sector to help support the increase in pace and scale of forest restoration activities necessary to improve the health of California's forests. Through research and analysis, the Institute continues to identify market and workforce gaps as well as opportunities for innovation in the forest products market sector. Additionally, the Institute supports research to innovate new uses for forest products, emphasizing carbon sequestration opportunities, and makes recommendations for state and federal policy changes to serve as a force multiplier for forest products.

This position is for a 2-year term, without term limits, subject to reappointment by the Board. The Council meets a minimum of four times annually; however, currently meetings are scheduled six times annually and may be adjusted, as necessary. Please see the attached nomination form or contact Katie Harrell at [katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov](mailto:katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov) or (916) 698-1035 to obtain it. Interested parties or nominators can submit nomination forms to [katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov](mailto:katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov) by **5:00 pm on Friday, February 9, 2024.**

## **PROTECTING THE FOOD SUPPLY – CDFA TO BEGIN FRUIT REMOVAL IN REDLANDS AS PART OF ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY ERADICATION PROGRAM**

CDFA is preparing to begin large-scale fruit removal in the Redlands-area of San Bernardino County. Removal will occur at more than 2,000 residences and is scheduled to begin in late January. All host fruit for the Oriental fruit fly—citrus as well as a number of other fruits--will be removed from properties, with trees remaining in place.

Properties slated for fruit removal are north and south of I-10, with a northern boundary of E. Highland Ave, a western boundary at the intersection of Garden and Elizabeth streets, an eastern boundary of Alta Vista Dr., and a southern boundary of Silver Leaf Ct. A map of the area may be viewed here: [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/docs/Redlands\\_HalfMileFruitRemoval\\_map.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/docs/Redlands_HalfMileFruitRemoval_map.pdf)

This approach will allow CDFA and its partners at the USDA and local agricultural commissioners' office to break the lifecycle of the invasive fly, which lays eggs in fruit that develop into larvae (maggots), posing a threat to both residential and commercial citrus as well as a total of more than 230 crops, including nuts, vegetables, and berries. If left unchecked, the Oriental fruit fly could become permanently established and cause billions of dollars' worth of losses annually, which would significantly impact California's food supply.

Residents in the Redlands area are strongly urged to cooperate with the agricultural officials working on the project, as fruit removal is mandatory. Removal is expected to continue until late February. Residents in areas of concern will receive notice 48 hours prior to fruit removal, with work crews arriving after the stated time interval has passed. Work crews may consist of a combination of the following: CDFA and USDA employees, California Conservation Corps employees, and private contractors specializing in fruit removal.

Residents in the removal area are asked not to remove fruit from trees themselves and they may not move produce from their property. If fruit falls from trees and must be disposed of, residents are urged to double-bag it and place it in a trash bin rather than green waste bins or other organic refuse designations. This approach significantly reduces the risk of spreading Oriental fruit flies, larvae, or

maggots. CDFA is planning to host a public meeting in Redlands on January 24 to share details of the fruit removal project. The meeting, which is intended for residents in the removal area, will occur from 6 pm to 8 pm at the San Bernardino County Museum at 2024 Orange Tree Ln., Redlands, CA 92374. Residents in the removal area will receive postcards in the mail inviting them to the meeting. More information about the Oriental fruit fly is available at [CAFruitFly.com](http://CAFruitFly.com).

## VACANCIES

### **CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCIES ON THE LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA), Bureau of Livestock Identification is announcing vacancies on the Livestock Identification Advisory Board. The Board makes recommendations to the Secretary relative to improvements and changes in the administration and enforcement of the hide and brand laws, regulations that are adopted pursuant to such laws, procedures that are followed by the Bureau of Livestock Identification for the curbing of livestock theft, the annual budget for the Bureau, and legislation which is designed to improve the function of the Bureau.

The term of office for a member on the Advisory Board is four years. Members receive no compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for mileage. The present board membership consists of two beef cattle producers, two dairy producers, two registered feedlot operators, and one livestock marketing business.

As of December 2023, one Cattle Feeder position has become vacant. Any interested individual representing beef cattle producers, please, send a brief resume by January 31, 2024, to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Bureau of Livestock Identification, Attention: John Suther, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

The Bureau of Livestock Identification is the sole state authority to register and inspect cattle operations. The Bureau maintains a brand registration and inspection program to protect cattle owners in California against loss of animals by theft, straying, or misappropriation. The bureau's program consists of registration of livestock brands; inspection of cattle for lawful possession prior to transportation, sale, or slaughter; recording of information obtained by such inspections; and assisting local law enforcement with investigations and prosecutions involving cattle theft. Additional information is available at the following link: [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Livestock\\_ID/index.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Livestock_ID/index.html)