



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.

February 23, 2024

Agrotourism

A new bill limiting liability for agrotourism has been introduced. [SB 1479](#) (Alvarado-Gil, D-Amador) is the California Agrotourism Promotion Act would limit the liability an agritourism operator faces from ordinary negligence to gross negligence. A similar bill from Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks) is expected on the same topic. *Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com*

Animal Health and Welfare

Discussions continue regarding ongoing funding and appropriations around wolf compensation fund. As California looks to be in a \$73 billion deficit, the primary focus is around reauthorization of the program at continued funding levels. *Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com*

Cannabis

The Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) intends to adopt emergency regulations implementing [SB 833](#), codified in Business and Professions Code section 26061.5, which requires the DCC to allow cannabis cultivation licensees to make certain changes, including: change the type of size of a cultivation license; place a cultivation license in inactive status; or make a one-time change to a cultivation license's date of renewal. Click [here](#) to view the emergency regulation text. A five day public comment period will begin once the Office of Administrative Law publishes the proposed regulations as being "under review" on its website, which can be viewed [here](#). *Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com*

Goods Movement

On February 21, the California Association of Port Authority (ARB) held its conference and lobby day. The focus of discussions was around increased ability to conduct goods movement, and to meet increasing emissions regulations from ARB and other regulators in order to stay competitive. Notable Speakers included Assemblyman Mike Gipson (D-Compton) and Air Resources Board Chair Liane Randolph. *Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com*

Industrial Hemp

Click [here](#) to view the CDFA notice of proposed regulations to change the definition of "harvest" under Section 4890 in Title 3 CCR pertaining to Industrial Hemp. Click [here](#) to view the proposed change, which states:

(14) "Harvest" means the collection of any portion of industrial hemp plant at the termination of the cultivation process for the purpose of processing, distribution, storage, or sale.

(A) "Harvest" does not include material removed from the plant for:

1. testing that is noticed to the commissioner and followed by documented destruction,
2. maintenance of stock,
3. male culling,
4. thinning, or
5. disposal.

A public hearing is not scheduled on this issue but written public comments on the proposed regulations are accepted until April 2, 2024. Submit comments to:

Erin Lovig, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N St, Sacramento, CA 95814
Permits@cdfa.ca.gov
916.403.6650 916.651.2900 (FAX)

Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Rural Crime

Last December, at least two dairies using automated milking systems were hacked. If you are interested in more information or reporting a threat, contact staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com

Transportation

The California Air Resources Board is holding a virtual Q+A on session regarding the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation reporting system. The new Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation requires all applicable vehicles to report company information, vehicle information, and compliance options using the online Truck Regulation Upload, Compliance and Reporting System (TRUCRS), which has been updated for ACF reporting. This Q&A session is free and will only focus on ACF reporting in TRUCRS, fleet specific ACF compliance assistance will not be provided at this session. The session will be held on March 5, 9:00 AM. Register [here](#). Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com

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Utilities

[SB 1374](#) authored by Senator Josh Becker (D Menlo Park) has been introduced. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by July 1, 2025, to establish a virtual net energy metering (VNEM) and net energy metering aggregation (NEMA) tariff that allows for 15-minute netting intervals and excess generation at avoided cost calculator values. While this would be an improvement over the current Net Billing Tariff decision, it does not restore the benefits of the prior NEMA tariff and Farm Bureau is planning to engage with the author's office to seek improvements for agricultural NEMA customers. Staff: Kevin Johnston; kjohnston@cfbf.com

Water

SGMA OVERSIGHT HEARING

The Assembly Water, Parks, & Wildlife Committee and Assembly Budget Subcommittee 4 held a joint oversight hearing on implementation of and costs associated with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act on February 21. Speakers included Paul Gosselin from the California Department of Water Resources, Sonja Petek from the Legislative Analyst's Office, James Nachbaur and Tina Cannon-Leahy from the State Water Resources Control Board, and local groundwater managers and legal scholars. Assemblyman Steve Bennett (D-Ventura), chair of Budget Subcommittee 4, is anticipated to be authoring several bills related to SGMA in 2024, as he did in 2023, that would mirror groundwater regulations in Fox Canyon in his district, and he tried to use hearing to make his case for changing SGMA. Farm Bureau and other water advocates coordinated beforehand to ensure that Assemblywoman Diane

Papan (D-San Diego) new chair of Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee, and other members of both committees were armed with questions and comments that challenged the idea that SGMA should be changed. A Legislative Analyst's Office report on SGMA was provided as background for the hearing and is [available online](#), as is an [archived video](#) of the hearing. Staff: *Alex Biering*, abiering@cfbf.com

STATE WATER BOARD DENIES PETITION TO SET MINIMUM FLOWS ON THE SHASTA RIVER

On February 16, the State Water Resources Control Board denied a [petition](#) asking the board to set permanent instream flow requirements for the Shasta River. The petition was submitted on January 17 by California Coastkeeper Alliance, Friends of the Shasta River, Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, Water Climate Trust, Shasta Waterkeeper, Save California Salmon, and the Environmental Protection Information Center. In [its decision](#), the board cited ongoing efforts by regulatory agencies and local landowners and stakeholders to develop a strategy for supporting salmon in the Shasta River as a key reason they declined the request to initiate a rulemaking. Staff: *Alex Biering*, abiering@cfbf.com