



In Brief

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE LEGAL ADVOCACY DIVISION OF
CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU

FEBRUARY 2025

CAFB FILES AMICUS BRIEF SUPPORTING COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO AND ITS OPERATION OF LOPEZ DAM



CAFB joined with Pacific Legal Foundation to file an amicus brief in the Ninth Circuit in *San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper v. County of San Luis Obispo* on January 31, 2025. The County of San Luis Obispo was sued by environmental groups alleging that Lopez Lake dam threatens steelhead trout under the Endangered Species Act. A federal judge determined that the operation of the lake threatens the trout and ordered the County to immediately release more water from the Lake. The CAFB and PLF amicus brief argued that the lower court incorrectly issued injunctive relief under the Endangered Species Act.

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CAFB JOINS NEVADA FARM BUREAU AND IDAHO FARM BUREAU TO ADDRESS WATER RIGHTS CASE IN NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

An amicus brief, submitted on behalf of Nevada Farm Bureau, Idaho Farm Bureau and CAFB, addresses issues of region-wide importance, including determination of when a state water rights decree is comprehensive. The litigation arose from a matter in Nevada in which federal claims on water rights surfaced after agricultural interests had relied on adjudicated rights. State adjudication laws, like those adopted in Nevada and throughout the west, are precisely the types of comprehensive statutes that Congress had in mind when it passed the McCarran Amendment.

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EPA REVIEWING EXPOSURE RISKS OF PFAS IN BIOSOLIDS



In January, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a draft risk assessment finding that exposure to PFAS (known as forever chemicals) in biosolids may pose human health risks. If EPA issues a future final risk assessment similar to the draft, it could lead to federal regulation under the Clean Water Act to manage PFAS in biosolids and encourage additional state regulation. The draft risk assessment can be found [here](#). Comments on the draft risk assessment are due by March 17, 2025.

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CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT FILING REQUIREMENTS CONTINUE TO BE DELAYED

Legal challenges to the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) that would have required many small businesses to report information beginning January 2025, continue to work their way through the court system. Although one case has been allowed to lift an injunction that prohibited the implementation for some businesses, *Texas Top Cop Shop, Inc. v. Garland*, the other case, *Smith v. U.S. Dep't of the Treasury*, addressing the law retains the injunction in place. The CTA remains enjoined throughout the country and business entities are not required to file the beneficial ownership report required by the statute.

Additionally, [H.R. 736](#) was introduced in Congress on January 24, which would extend the deadline for at least some entities to comply with the CTA's reporting requirements from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026. H.R. 736 unanimously passed the House of Representatives and now awaits consideration in the Senate.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS IN CARRIER OF LAST RESORT PROCEEDING ORDERED TO SOLICIT INPUT ON RETAINING LANDLINES



Rulemaking 24-04-012 addressing the pressure to discontinue support for telephone landlines is well underway. Generally, the purpose of this proceeding is to consider whether the California Public Utilities Commission should revise its Carrier of Last Resort rules and, if so, what those revisions should be. A ruling scheduling public participation hearings (PPHs) in this proceeding and directs certain carriers to provide

notice of the PPHs. The PPHs are an opportunity for the public to communicate directly with the Commission regarding the issues raised in this proceeding. The ruling with the list of hearing locations, that also include virtual hearings, can be found here: <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=ALL&DocID=556897376>

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