



# 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.

March 29, 2024

## Agriculture Employment Policy

The Center for Jobs and the Economy has released the full analysis of the February Employment Report from the California Employment Development Department. With California now posting the highest unemployment rate in the nation, this report focuses specifically on unemployment data to provide crucial insights into the state of employment in California. Key takeaways include:

- **California's Unemployment Rate:** California's unemployment rate reached 5.3% in February, the highest in the nation and the highest in California since December 2021.
- **Unemployment Trends:** Since August 2022, California's unemployment rate has risen steadily while post-pandemic job growth remains behind Florida, North Carolina, and Texas.

For additional information and data about the California economy visit [www.centerforjobs.org/ca](http://www.centerforjobs.org/ca). Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cfbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cfbf.com) and Brian Little, [blittle@cfbf.com](mailto:blittle@cfbf.com)

## Animal Health and Welfare

### EMERGENCY CLOSURES – CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

CDFW may have cause to close facilities or properties, postpone or cancel events, or adjust operations due to construction, flood, fire, or public health concerns. Many of CDFW's high public use areas, including visitor centers and license counters, have reopened, with local health protocols in place, if any exist. Before heading to a CDFW facility, contact the [regional CDFW office](#) to determine if that facility is open. See CDFW's [Online License Site](#) for information on purchasing licenses, permits, tags and other entitlements. Staff: Chris Reardon, [creardon@cfbf.com](mailto:creardon@cfbf.com)

## Dairy

[AB 2870](#) - The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State Air Resources Board to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions to ensure that the statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, as defined, no later than December 31, 2030. Pursuant to the act, the state board has adopted the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard regulations. Current law requires the state board to provide guidance on credits generated pursuant to the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard regulations adopted pursuant to the act from the methane reduction protocols described in the comprehensive strategy for short-lived climate pollutants. This bill would prohibit the state board from including avoided methane emissions in the calculation of carbon intensity for purposes of the state board's evaluation or reevaluation of a fuel pathway and would prohibit a fuel pathway holder from including avoided methane emissions in the calculation of carbon intensity in the fuel pathway holder's annual Fuel Pathway Report, as provided. The bill would define "avoided methane emissions" to mean any captured methane from livestock manure management. Farm Bureau is opposed. Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cfbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cfbf.com)

## Technology

### AG TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

On April 11, UCCE is hosting a workshop to showcase ag technology. They will demonstrate soil moisture monitors, weather stations, drones, virtual fence technology, electronic identification systems, and other equipment designed to improve efficiency. The event is from 4:00 - 6:00 PM in Auburn at UC Cooperative Extension, 11477 E Ave, Auburn, CA 95603, and costs \$10/person. [Registration available here.](#)  
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## Transportation

### CORE FUNDING

California Air Resources Board offers the CORE Program is an incentive project intended to encourage California off-road equipment users to purchase or lease currently commercialized zero-emission off-road zero-emission off-road equipment such as forklifts, transport refrigeration units, construction and agricultural equipment, and terminal trucks.

The FY 2023-24 Funding Plan for Clean Transportation Incentives allocates \$14.3 million to Clean Off Road Equipment Vouchers ([CORE](#)) to continue supporting adoption of cleaner, commercially available off-road technologies. There is \$50 million remaining from 2023. On March 27, CARB held a meeting to discuss potential changes regarding updated incentive amounts. For more information about the FY 2023-24 Funding Plan, please visit the [Funding Plan website](#). Vehicle purchasers can contact an approved dealer to [submit a voucher request](#) for eligible vehicle technology. Staff: Steven Fenaroli, [sfenaroli@cfbf.com](mailto:sfenaroli@cfbf.com)

### REMINDER: ADVANCED CLEAN FLEETS, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FLEET REPORTING DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2024

To meet California's health-based air quality standards and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, the trucks and buses operated in the state and the fuel they use must be transformed away from petroleum. California is working to meet the Governor's goal of one hundred percent zero-emission transportation feasible by 2045.

The ACF regulation applies to fleets performing drayage operations, those owned by State, local, and federal government agencies, and high priority fleets. High priority fleets are entities that own, operate, or direct at least one vehicle in California, and that have either \$50 million or more in gross annual revenues, or that own, operate, or have common ownership or control of a total of 50 or more vehicles (excluding light-duty package delivery vehicles). The regulation affects medium- and heavy-duty on-road vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 8,500 pounds, off-road yard tractors, and light-duty mail and package delivery vehicles.

On April 28, 2023, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation (ACF). State and Local Governments must report fleet information in the [Truck Regulation Upload, Compliance, and Reporting System](#) (TRUCRS) no later than April 1, 2024.

CARB has several resources available to help with the reporting process:

[TRUCRS Reporting](#)

- [TRUCRS Reporting System](#)
- [TRUCRS online user guide](#)
- [TRUCRS reporting guide videos](#)
- [Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation Overview](#)
- [ZEV TruckStop Webpage](#)

## Water

### STATE WATER PROJECT TAKES ACTION TO PROTECT NATIVE FISH SPECIES

Spring is an important time for water project operators to fill reservoirs ahead of dry months. It also is an important migration window for many native fish species. Steelhead trout in Central Valley rivers are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act as threatened. As a result, the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) monitor steelhead at the pumping plants near Tracy that move water to the Santa Clara Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California.

The State Water Project and Central Valley Project have decreased pumping to less than half of maximum capacity since January 1 to protect migrating fish. Now, the SWP and CVP are approaching the maximum number of steelhead trout that can be collected at the pumps from December 1 through March 31 of each year under rules established by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The water projects may reach the maximum allowable steelhead collected under those rules within the next few days. Steelhead are collected live in front of the fish screens at the SWP pumping facilities and released into Delta channels. Studies show that approximately 95 percent of the steelhead collected this way survive their journey to the ocean.

Fish monitoring stations in the Sacramento Basin have seen a significant increase in juvenile steelhead production this past year which may account for the relatively higher numbers of steelhead observed in the south Delta this winter.

The combined SWP and CVP pumping levels currently are at 3,100 cubic feet per second (cfs), well below the maximum capacity of 11,000 cfs. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which operates the SWP, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the CVP, will consult with NMFS on steelhead protections through March 31. Importantly, DWR is also advancing the Delta Conveyance Project, which would construct new infrastructure that will make it possible to move more water during high flow events while helping these fish species avoid threats posed by current pumping infrastructure.

San Luis Reservoir, which is crucial to water supplies for much of the state's population, is jointly operated by DWR and Reclamation. The reservoir can hold 2 million acre-feet of water. The federal portion of the reservoir, which serves largely agricultural customers whose water supply needs occur mostly later in the summer, is 99 percent full, storing 965,000 acre-feet. The state-owned portion, which serves both urban and agricultural customers, is 49 percent full, with 518,000 acre-feet. The SWP has less water stored in San Luis because it has been using more of its limited export capability under decreased pumping to send water directly to the public water districts that rely on the SWP.

These export reductions are a challenge to our water supply and DWR has been working to ensure that the best science available is guiding decisions. DWR is conducting a study of acoustic tagged steelhead to track their movements, in coordination with NMFS and Reclamation. The information from the study will help identify when the steelhead rear and migrate and allow water project operators to finetune pumping reductions. DWR also is using DNA technology to identify the origin of steelhead collected at the Delta fish screens and investing to expand steelhead habitat and monitoring.

DWR is also closely monitoring juvenile Chinook salmon collections at the fish screens relative to our regulatory limit for winter-run salmon. Using new rapid genetic testing technology and monitoring data, DWR is gathering information needed to inform future risk assessments should Chinook salmon collection continue. *Staff: Alex Biering, [abiering@cbbf.com](mailto:abiering@cbbf.com)*