



ISSUES AND LEGISLATION

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Governor drought statewide emergency declaration on California's drought

- A bi-partisan group of legislators has requested Governor Newsom declare a drought emergency
- California produces half of the nation's livestock and produce products, which are an essential part of our economy and a crucial aspect of our national security.
- Similar drought conditions in 2014 when allocations to the State Water Project were reduced by 5%. At that time, the Governor declared a state of emergency in order to provide flexibility and commonsense streamlining to utilize our limited water in the most effective way possible.
- An estimated \$7.2 billion in annual farm revenue loss is expected to occur given reduced surface and ground water access for food producers.
- There is some concern by water purveyors that declaring an emergency will give staff at the State Water Board authority over allocations with no oversight.
- To date, the Governor has declared an emergency in Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

Mill Assessment – Department of Pesticide Regulations

- California assesses a fee on a pesticide/chemical at the point of first sale into the state. The “mill” is equal to one tenth of a cent and the current assessment is 21 mills, or 2.1 cents per dollar of sales.
- The proposed increase in the budget took agriculture and the consumer specialty products companies by surprise. A broad array of stakeholders responsible for paying this mill tax has opposed the budget change proposal. Below is what is proposed based on “signal” words assigned by the US EPA. This proposal would raise \$40M for the Department of Pesticide Regulation, much more than needed for their \$8M shortfall.

Signal Word	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
None & Caution	21 mills	25 mills	25 mills	26 mills
Warning	30 mills	30 mills	35 mills	40 mills
Danger & Danger/Poison	35 mills	35 mills	40 mills	45 mills

- This is just one more tax/fee passed on to growers/consumers. Chemical companies will pass this increase on to their customers. Growers have no one to pass it onto.
- Additionally, this would impact disinfectant products essential to meeting Cal-OSA's Covid-10 reopening guidelines. This tax would impact consumers, restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals, clinics, schools, child-care centers, public transportation services, and others.

- A number of legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, have weighed in to oppose the amount of the increase. Given that the mill has not been increased in 16 years, there is some understanding a small increase would be appropriate but not the amount proposed and definitely not based on the “signal” word.
- Finally, this increase was never discussed with agriculture in order to negotiate or discuss alternatives. CAL EPA Secretary Jared Huffman “apologized” to agriculture on the CA Farm Bureau’s Ag Day Forum for not first discussing with agriculture.

AB 377 (Robert Rivas-D) Water quality: impaired waters

- This bill would require all California surface waters to be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable by January 1, 2050.
- It fundamentally removes the State Water Resources Control Board and regional water quality control boards’ discretion to address water quality issues water boards. AB 377 provisions remain impractical and impossible to achieve because water quality standards are continually evolving with time, therefore the water boards must have discretion to adapt permits to ever changing standards and timelines.
- This bill has been amended three times so far. Amendments to the measure amount to exceptions and carve outs, but the goal of the measure remains focused on municipal stormwater and irrigated agriculture. In spite of the significant amendments, it still does not address the fundamental issues that are problematic to agriculture and all others that have permits, waste discharge requirements and conditional waivers with the
- A large coalition continues to meet with the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, the Governor’s Office, the Department of Finance and others.

Position: Oppose

Status: Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxics Material

AB 391 (Villapudua-D) Pollinator habitat conservation: funding

- This bill appropriates \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The funds will increase technical assistance, outreach, and provide grants to incentivize participation in state and federal conservation programs where pollinator habitat and forage are established.

Position: Support

Status: Appropriations Committee

AB 616 (Stone – D) Agricultural labor relations: Card Check

- This bill is a reintroduction of the Card Check Bill that was vetoed by Governor Brown. It would refer to the secret ballot election as a polling place election. However, if a majority of employees in a bargaining unit submit ballot cards electing their labor representatives, this would be permitted. The Ag Labor Relations Board (ALRB) is then required to certify the labor organization as the exclusive bargaining representative. The bill also requires an employer who appeals or petitions for a writ of review of the order

to post an appeal bond in the amount of the entire economic value such as back pay or other monetary awards to employees.

Position: Oppose

Status: Assembly Labor and Employment Committee (will pass)

Comments: This is a UFW sponsored card check bill that infringes on an employees' right to a secret ballot to determine union representation. The secret ballot election process has been at the core of the Ag Labor Relations Act that guarantees employees have the opportunity to express their choice with respect to union representation through a secret ballot election.

If AB 616 were to become law, farm employees will be forever stripped of their right to express their choice for union representation or not by a secret ballot election supervised by the ALRB. Union organizers will go to great lengths to influence farm employees to force a card check certification and avoid secret ballot elections. Also, harsh penalties are levied upon employers, but not the unions.

SB 559 (Hurtado): State Water Resiliency Act of 2021

- This bill seeks to address necessary repairs to the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project infrastructure, including canals, roads, and bridges that have been damaged due to subsidence.
- Over 31 million Californians depend on water that flows through these conveyance facilities.
- These facilities provide water supplies that are necessary to maintain the state's economy, to develop additional local water supplies, to recharge local groundwater basins and to serve disadvantaged communities throughout the state.

Position: Support

Status: Natural Resources and Water Committee

AB 125 (Rivas, Robert – D) Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms and Worker Protection Bond Act of 2022

- This is a bond that would require voters to approve a \$3.302 billion investment to build a healthier, more equitable and resilient food and farm system. The bill is co-sponsored by 15 organizations such as CA for Pesticide Reform, Center for Food Safety, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Roots of Change, and the Pesticide Action Network.
- According to the author, "AB 125 will make major investments in both rural and urban areas of the state to increase worker safety, decrease hunger, and promote sustainable agriculture practices that will help us remain resilient in a changing climate".
- Bond investments would be made in CA wildfire and climate resilience, protection of essential farmworkers, providing access to healthy food, investing in regional food processing and market infrastructure, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices that reduce pollution and climate-proof our food supply.

Position: Watch

Status: Passed the Assembly Agriculture Committee with 10-0 vote (Rivas is Chair of Committee)

Comments: Does the bond address the economic aspects of farming? Will it mandate certain practices that are not economically feasible for farmers to implement?4

AB 567 (Bauer-Kahan –D) Pesticides: neonicotinoids: prohibit use

- This bill will ban four different neonicotinoid pesticides for use as seed treatments in California.
- This legislation is counterproductive to tenets of integrated pest management and sustainable food production.
- Pollinators are an integral part of our environment and our agricultural systems. Ag needs bees.
- While bee health has been challenged in the past several decades, according to the USDA, pesticides in the aggregate fall low on the list of stressors.
- USDA also found that the percent of colonies reported to be affected by Varroa mites from January through March 2020 and April through June 2020 was 25.5% and 42.3% respectively. Other pests and parasites during these same survey periods were identified as a colony stressor at 8% and 12.2%; with pesticides coming in at 5% and 6.1%.
- This bill ignores the science, the regulatory structure, and the experts by arbitrarily banning properly licensed and safe materials. The existing layers of regulation are more than sufficient and protective of the bee population. Banning neonicotinoid pesticides is unwarranted.

Position: Oppose

Status: Environmental Toxics and Safety Committee

Comments: A large coalition of production agricultural associations are opposed to this bill. Recent findings have confirmed that the number of beehives has stabilized the past 20 years.

AB 1103 (Megan Dahle-R) Agricultural lands: farmers and producers: agricultural pass program: disaster access to farm lands

- This bill authorizes specified local entities to establish an agricultural pass program for the purpose of granting qualifying agricultural producer or employee access to the qualifying agricultural producer's farm or ranch property during or following a natural disaster.
- County boards of supervisors, county agricultural commissioners, or other local agencies designed by the county board of supervisors, would be authorized to establish within that county an agricultural pass program (Ag Pass)

Position: Support

Status: Committee on Emergency Management

To: CWA Membership
 From: Sue Poland
 Date: May, 2021
 Re: May, 2021, Membership Report



Howdy!

We're all in this together... 😊

Sure wish we could all be together there in Sacramento..., Here are the chapter membership totals that I received through April 26. Sadly, we don't have May, 2020 figures to compare to – remember, it was our first SWM lost to COVID-19. Here are numbers based on membership spreadsheets that have been sent to me:

Chapter	Name	Email	4/27/21
Carpinteria/S.B.	Susan Pollard	sgp1456@aol.com	50
Central Valley	Allie Jones	alliej3808@gmail.com	28
Coachella Valley	Kelly Taylor	kellytaylor1107@gmail.com	65
Imperial Valley	Terrie Cartee	terriecartee@aol.com	8
Kern County	Megan Eskew	megan.j.eskew@raboag.com	1
Lake County	Sausha Racine	sausha@scullypacking.com	56
Los Angeles	Christina Romero Barbara Tuyen	aglove711@gmail.com tuyen@fairplex.com	
Merced	Fran Marchini Fordice	Fran@jmarchinifarms.com	152
North Bay	Ruth McClure and Mary Sanchez	fourewemom@hotmail.com rmcclure@agloan.com	23
North Valley	Tonya Keyawa	tonyakeyawa@gmail.com	62
Palo Verde	Kathy Strochein	taxlady4ever@digitaldune.net	
Sacramento Valley	Amy Valencia	Amy.valencia@gmail.com	25
Salinas	Cari Cauley	cari@belliag.com	23
San Diego	Claire Ehrlinger	cehrlinger@miracosta.edu	
San Joaquin	Carolyn Burtis	carolynburtis@gmail.com	189
San Luis Obispo	Jeannette McClure	jmcclure@ppbi.com	
Santa Maria	Amber Repozzo	arapozzo@yahoo.com	17
Stanislaus	Brandi LoForti	brandiloforti@aol.com	105
Sutter Buttes	Christine Ivory	Tineivory@yahoo.com	
Tulare-Kings	Christine Cary	casheepmom@yahoo.com	1
Ventura County	Maggie Kimball	vccwamembership@gmail.com	42

It looks like.... As of 4/27, we have 847 members. Well done, and thank you, ladies! A gold star to each of you! ★ Hang in there, ladies!

AG BOOSTERS BBQ Task Force Report – Lorna Roush

Hi Rose & Friends,

I hope everyone is well. Life seems to be getting back to a somewhat normal with busy times.

The Ag Booster BBQ is set for September 12, 2021. We are planning for a full, in person, BBQ to be held at Borba residence in Madera. We will be working with Bianca on what hotel we utilize to have a packaging room on Saturday as well as meeting location, or if the packaging room is located at the Farm Bureau office. I do know the Fresno County Farm Bureau office is available. I'm not sure if the equipment available is capable of handling the needs. Audio is available. Zoom is available but difficult for zoom participants to hear everyone in the room. Video is available. CWA will not be charged. I know Madera Farm Bureau was also a consideration. I am not sure where the ladies are on a decision.

I have a couple of live auction items that were in discussion. I need to circle back and get confirmation. We are needing more items though. I would love to see CWA have at least 4 items. I would like items to be committed by the end of May. Ag One will be able to advertise the items if we have commitment with description by the end of May. The items do not have to be completed, just planned. We can also take things after May, but it will not be available for the mailer.

The country store will have the same set up as 2019, as we do not know what to expect as far as turnout. 2019 had 1,351 guests. I will be asking for produce/commodities from the different regions throughout California. Those items are always such a huge hit with guests. The homemade items are also very welcomed. Desserts will also be needed. Please remember to be conscious of the heat and items that may melt or spoil. Any silent auction items are very welcome. Wine will be replaced with a placard and the bottle placed into an ice chest for temperature control.

I will have different areas ready for chapters/members to utilize a guide for setting up tables. Hopefully, having a guide will save time for everyone during setup, and that area can represent their crafty ideas and talent.

The 2019 payment is being updated and we should be receiving payment within the next week or so.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Kindly,

Lorna Roush
(559) 974-8260



Natural Resources Task Force Director Report

Task Force: *Natural Resources (Air Quality, Climate Change, Endangered Species and Renewable Resources/Energy as related to Agriculture)*

Report Period: *March 6, to April 19, 2021, For May 3-4 Statewide Meeting*

Submitted By: *Cheryl Lambert, Natural Resources Task Force Director*

Contact at earthwrx@sbcglobal.net

1. Current legislation (state or federal) or Rulings applicable to this task force:

Federal Government

Visit the Federal Register websites for updates: <https://www.federalregister.gov/>; or New Beta website: <https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/> Search for your topic of interest.

Endangered Species:

Last December, U.S. federal officials said the monarch butterfly is “a candidate” for the threatened or **endangered species** list. The designation would provide protection for their food supply and environment, including their migratory path. However, they said no action would be taken for several years because many other species are still awaiting that designation.

[The Monarch Butterfly Population Is in Danger of Disappearing \(voanews.com\)](https://www.voanews.com/story/science/2020/12/15/monarch-butterfly-endangered-species/5848270002)

[Live Monarch Foundation - Milkweed & Miracle fruit for sale - Live Monarch Educational Foundation, Farm and National Movement](https://www.livemonarch.org/milkweed-miracle-fruit-for-sale)

Renewable Resources/Energy:

Reps. Angie Craig (D-MN) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD), co-chairs of the Congressional Biofuels Caucus, led the introduction of the Renewable Fuel Standard Integrity Act, which would require small refineries to submit a petition for a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) hardship exemption by June 1 of each year.

Air Quality:

[Agriculture and Air Quality | Agriculture | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/air-quality/agriculture) USEPAs Agriculture and Air Quality website

Climate Change:

The Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (FACA) announced that it was expanding its membership to include 14 new groups to the Steering Committee. A full list of FACA’s 42 members can be found at [www. AgClimateAlliance.com](http://www.AgClimateAlliance.com).

State of California

Visit this website <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> for information on Bills and Legislation for the 2021-2022 session. Do an advanced search for the subject including the natural resource and agriculture tags.

Endangered Species:

AB 564 (Gonzalez) Biodiversity Protection and Restoration Act.

AB 809 (Frazier) Natural Resources Agency: statewide natural resources inventory

Renewable Resources/Energy:

AB 478 (Ting) Solid waste: thermoform containers: minimum recycled content.

AB 734 (E. Garcia) Organic Recycling: Spot Bill

AB 842 (C. Garcia) Solid waste: single-use plastic packaging and products.

AB 1086 (Aguiar-Curry) Organic waste: implementation strategy.

SB 54 (Allen) Solid waste: disposable packaging and food ware.

SB 343 (Allen) Environmental advertising: recycling symbol.

Air Quality:

-AB 1508 (Flora) Agriculture: whole orchard recycling: carbon offset credits and healthy soils.

-FARMER Program \$170 million to Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions Program (FARMER) in the San Joaquin Valley.

Climate Change:

SB 27 (Skinner) Carbon Sequestration

SB 260 (Wiener) Climate Corporate Accountability Act.

AB 284 (Rivas) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: climate goal: natural and working lands.

AB 1500 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.

SB 45 (Portantino) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022.

2. Current events/news/social media applicable to this task force:

[Stop Food Waste: Driving Awareness to Fight Food Waste. 2021 Virtual Event. Tickets, Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](#) Free with registration. Join more than 25+ incredible speakers discussing how we solve the food waste crisis. Brought to you by Food Tank and Compass Group.

3. Positions taken on this area of interest during the reporting period:

In Review, per NRTFD's and President Elect's request: State NRTFD's role and responsibilities to focus the Natural Resources Task Force on related issues for Air Quality, Climate Change, Renewable Resources and Energy. Proposed moving Endangered Species to a separate Task Force focused on Endangered Species issues. In Addition, corresponding Bylaws, Operating Procedures and CWA Issue Policy are in review to reflect all CWA approved changes for Policy Positions, Roles and Responsibilities. Furthermore, a Policy Position Committee was formed at the Annual Meeting in January 2021 to study proposed Executive Committee and Director responsibility changes, and bring them before members for discussion at a future in-person 2021 Statewide Meeting-probably in September 2021.

All guidance for the Natural Resources Task Force are under the CWA Issue Policy Positions including: Air Quality, Climate Change, Endangered Species and Renewable Resources and Energy as related to agriculture.

4. Items of interest:

USDA Conservation Webinars

See the schedule for future live webinars as well as the extensive catalogue of recorded On Demand webinars provided on a wide variety of topics relevant to agriculture:

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

Western Sustainable and Agriculture Research Education Center

Books, videos, curricula, fact sheets and much more! SARE's Learning Center is a treasure trove of sustainable agriculture information. <https://www.westernsare.org/Learning-and-Resources>



Task Force Director Report

Task Force: Ag Business

Report Period: May, 2020

Submitted By: Dani Link

PLEASE SHARE WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE WITH OTHER CWA MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE!

1. Current legislation (state or federal) applicable to this task force:

Federal – <https://californiaagtoday.com/president-biden-more-water-investments-needed/>

Recognizing the constructive elements of conservation, efficiency, recycling, and watershed management included in the Biden administration's initial infrastructure proposal, a national coalition of over 200 agricultural organizations and urban and rural water districts said today it would urge the federal government to further bolster investment in the nation's aging water facilities

State – <https://californiaagtoday.com/newsom-on-drought/>

Today, Congressman David G. Valadao along with House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy and Representatives Ken Calvert, Mike Garcia, Darrell Issa, Young Kim, Doug LaMalfa, Devin Nunes, and Michelle Steel released the following statement in response to Governor Newsom's decision to declare a drought state of emergency for only two counties – Mendocino and Sonoma – while counties in the rest of the state are also experiencing severe drought conditions:

2. Current events/news/social media applicable to this task force:

As of today (APR 27) Newsom has been recalled, which brings some sunshine to the Ag Community.

3. Positions taken on this area of interest during the reporting period:

4. Other items of interest:

5. Related events:

**PLEASE SUBMIT TO THE HOST DISTRICT DIRECTOR
TWO WEEKS BEFORE A SCHEDULED STATE WIDE MEETING**

State Task Force Director Report: Leadership and Empowerment
Report Period: March 2021
Submitted By: Carla Heune, Stanislaus Chapter

PLEASE SHARE WHAT IS BEING SHARED HERE WITH YOUR CHAPTER. GET THEM INVOLVED IN THE CHALLENGE BELOW:

May Statewide Meeting:

As we jump into Legislative life at this meeting, again focus on kindness and flexibility with the challenges that we are facing both due to Covid and just day in and day out issues.

All of us including our legislators, have had a rough time doing what needs to be done.

KindnessThink about this --- your kindness to someone may be the brightest spot in their day! And you may have changed their outlook on their whole day, whole week, whole month, etc. You never know what you accomplish by reaching out with kindness and gratefulness. Show someone how to do what you do. Build their confidence. Build their value!

