

A sepia-toned photograph of the California State Capitol building in Sacramento, featuring its prominent dome and classical architecture, framed by trees. The image serves as a background for the top portion of the document.

April 4, 2022

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES FOR CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

GOVERNOR NEWSOM ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE ORDER ON DROUGHT

Following the driest first three months of a year in the state's recorded history, Governor Newsom is calling on local water suppliers to move to Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans, which require locally appropriate actions that will conserve water across all sectors and directing the State Water Resources Control Board to consider a ban on the watering of decorative grass at businesses and institutions.

In an executive order signed this week, the Governor ordered the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to evaluate the adoption of regulations banning irrigation of "non-functional" turf (or grass), such as decorative grass adjacent to large industrial and commercial buildings. The ban would not include residential lawns or grass used for recreation, such as school fields, sports fields, and parks. The Department of Water Resources estimates this ban alone will result in potential water savings of several hundred thousand acre-feet. An acre-foot of water serves the needs of approximately three households for a year.

As the drought persists into the third year and conditions worsen amidst dry, hot weather, today's order called on the SWRCB to consider requiring urban water suppliers to activate, at a minimum, Level 2 of their customized Water Shortage Contingency Plans. These plans, required by state law, are developed by local water agencies to navigate drought and each plan is customized based on an agency's unique infrastructure and management. Triggering Level 2 of these plans involves implementing

water conservation actions to prepare for a water shortage level of up to 20 percent. For example, in many communities, this would mean reducing the number of days that residents can water outdoors, among other measures.

To further conserve water and strengthen drought resiliency in this critically dry year, the Governor is encouraging suppliers, where appropriate, to consider going above and beyond the Level 2 of their water shortage contingency plans, activating more ambitious measures. The Governor has also ordered state agencies to submit funding proposals to support the state's short- and long-term drought response, including emergency assistance to communities and households facing drought-related water shortages, facilitating groundwater recharge and wastewater recycling, improvements in water use efficiency, protecting fish and wildlife, and minimizing drought-related economic disruption.

The executive order includes several other provisions that will protect all water users:

- **Ensuring Vulnerable Communities Have Drinking Water**
 - o Cuts red tape so communities that need access to emergency hauled or bottled water can get it immediately

KEELY BOSLER TO STEP ASIDE AS NEWSOM BUDGET CHIEF

- **Safeguarding Groundwater Supplies**
 - o Requires local permitting authorities to coordinate with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to ensure new proposed wells do not compromise existing wells or infrastructure, as 85 percent of public water systems rely heavily on groundwater during drought
 - o Streamlines permitting for groundwater recharge projects that help to refill aquifers when rains come
- **Protecting Vulnerable Fish and Wildlife**
 - o Expedites state agency approvals for necessary actions to protect fish and wildlife where drought conditions threaten their health and survival
- **Preventing Illegal Water Diversions**
 - o Directs the Water Board to expand site inspections to determine whether illegal diversions are occurring

A copy of the executive order can be found [HERE](#).

STATE, FEDERAL AGENCIES ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL WATER SUPPLIERS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF RIVERS AND LANDSCAPES

State, federal, and local water leaders announced a broad agreement this week on measures to provide additional water flows and new habitats to help improve conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta watershed.

The [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) signed outline terms for a transformational eight-year program that would provide substantial new flows for the environment to help recover salmon and other native fish, create new and restored habitats for fish and wildlife, and provide significant funding for environmental improvements and water purchases. It also outlines a governance and habitat monitoring framework with clear metrics and goals to allow state, federal, and local partners to analyze progress, manage adaptively and decide whether the program should be continued, modified, or ended after eight years.

The state has been actively working with local water agencies since 2016 to develop enforceable agreements to provide additional river flows and new habitats to help change the trajectory of declining native fish species. Following the release of a framework document in February 2020, state agencies have continued to work with local water agencies to refine elements of agreements that would enable adaptive, holistic management and deliver environmental improvements more quickly than a regulatory proceeding that would likely be contentious.

The State Water Resources Control Board is required to update its Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan to

protect native fish, wildlife, and other “beneficial uses” of water, including municipal, domestic, and agricultural water supplies.

The MOU signed seeks to meet those objectives through an integrated program that includes habitat creation, new flows for the environment above existing regulatory requirements, funding for environmental improvements and water purchases, and a new, collaborative science program for monitoring and adaptive management.

Habitat creation would range from targeted improvements in tributaries to large landscape-level restoration in the Sacramento Valley. Improvements include the creation of spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and smelt, completion of high-priority fish screen projects, restoration and reactivation of flood plains, projects to address predation, and fish passage improvements.

Local water agency managers signing the MOU have committed to bring the terms of the MOU to their boards of directors for their endorsement and to work to settle litigation over endangered species protections in the Delta.

Signatories to the agreement also committed to finalizing the following elements:

- Up to 824,000 acre-feet of additional flow to and through the Delta in the ecologically important window of January through June. Target flow volumes vary depending upon how wet or dry a year is, and flows made available under the agreement will be above current regulatory conditions.

STATE, FEDERAL AGENCIES ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL WATER SUPPLIERS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF RIVERS AND LANDSCAPES (CONTINUED)

- 20,000 acres of additional floodplain habitat
- 20,000 acres of rice cropland inundated in ways to improve the generation of microscopic plants and animals that provide fish food
- Over 5,000 acres of additional tidal wetlands and associated floodplain
- Nearly 3,300 acres of additional spawning, and instream and floodplain juvenile rearing habitat
- A new state multi-disciplinary restoration unit to accelerate permitting and implementation of habitat projects
- Annual reports informing adaptive management and describing the status and trend of native fish populations and whether commitments by voluntary agreement parties are being met
- Triennial reports and public workshops in years three and six of the agreement to analyze progress
- A “red,” “yellow,” or “green” decision by state water quality regulators in year eight to determine

if the voluntary agreements are achieving ecological objectives and should be continued, modified, or ended.

Water agencies in the Bay-Delta watershed that do not sign onto the approach outlined in the MOU would need to comply with regulatory requirements established by the State Water Board.

Implementation of the agreements outlined in the MOU is estimated to cost \$2.6 billion, to be shared by water users and the state and federal governments. Water agencies will self-assess fees to support the implementation of the voluntary agreements. Water users and the state will make flows available through a combination of reduced diversions, year-by-year purchases of water, long-term or permanent purchase of water, and voluntary fallowing of agricultural or pasture lands.

POLITICAL NOTES

- Concern is mounting on Capitol Hill around the viability of Garcetti’s India ambassadorship nomination. As the Senate considered making Garcetti emissary to the world’s biggest democracy, the consternation was initially confined to the GOP: Republican Iowa Sens. Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley both placed holds on Garcetti’s nomination this month over allegations that Garcetti knew of sexual misconduct in his office (something he has denied), including by former top aide Rick Jacobs (which Jacobs has denied). Grassley said on Tuesday that a GOP investigation would delay a vote until late April at the earliest.

- Attorney General Rob Bonta is denying challenger and Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert a monopoly on law enforcement union support, with the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association backing Bonta for a full term. The organization — whose membership includes California Department of Justice agents who ultimately answer to Bonta — previously donated money to both Bonta’s predecessor, former AG Xavier Becerra, to Schubert’s DA bids and to former LADA Jackie Lacey, who lost to progressive DA George Gascón.

APPOINTMENTS

The Governor made the following appointments this week:

Rachelle Arizmendi, 49, of Sierra Madre, has been reappointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where she has served since 2017. Arizmendi has been a Member of the Sierra Madre City Council since 2014, where she served as the Mayor in 2017 and 2020. She has been Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment since 2016, where she was Director of Head Start from 2000 to 2014 and a Registered Dietitian from 1998 to 2000. Arizmendi was Nutrition Adjunct Faculty at

Pasadena City College from 2013 to 2015.

Don Cameron, 69, of Helm, has been reappointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he has served since 2014. Cameron has been General Manager and Vice President of Terranova Ranch Inc. since 1981. He is Chairman of the California Cotton Alliance and McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Director and Past Chairman for the California Tomato Growers Association. He is a member of the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel and the Western Growers Association Board of Directors.

APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Jenet DeCosta, 40, of Watsonville, has been appointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. DeCosta has been Chief of Staff at Driscoll's since 2016, where she was Marketing Manager from 2014 to 2016 and Business Analyst from 2012 to 2014. She was Business Manager of the American Red Cross Penn-Jersey Blood Services Region from 2010 to 2012, where she was an Analyst for Strategic Planning from 2003 to 2010.

Michael Gallo, 71, of Merced, has been reappointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he has served since 2012. Gallo has been Chief Executive Officer of Joseph Gallo Farms, maker of Joseph Farms Cheese, since 1985, and Co-Owner since 1972. He is a member of the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors, Merced County Chamber of Commerce, Merced Elks, Italo American Lodge, Merced Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Merced College President's Circle.

Eric Holst, 54, of Sacramento, has been reappointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he has served since 2012. Holst has been Associate Vice President for Natural Climate Solutions at the Environmental Defense Fund since 2021, where he has held several positions since 2006, including Managing Director and California Regional Director of the Center for Conservation Incentives. He was Principal at Holst Conservation Consulting from 2004 to 2006, Executive Director at the Resources Legacy Fund in 2004, Program Officer at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation from 1999 to 2003 and a Manager at the Rainforest Alliance, Conservation Agriculture Program from 1996 to 1999. He is a California Registered Professional Forester.

Glenda Humiston, 63, of Novato, has been appointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. Humiston has been Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the University of California since 2015. She was California State Director for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 2009 to 2015, Senior Partner at AGvocate Consulting Services from 2001 to 2003 and Deputy Undersecretary for the United States Department of Agriculture from 1998 to 2001.

Bryce Lundberg, 60, of Chico, has been reappointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he has served since 2013. Lundberg has been Vice President of Agriculture at Lundberg Family Farms since 2000 and Partner and Owner at B&E Lundberg since 1984.

David Mancera, 42, of Salinas, has been appointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. Mancera has been Director of Kitchen Table Advisors since 2018 and Principal Consultant of Mancera Consulting Group since 2014. He was Senior Business Advisor at Kitchen Table Advisors from 2015 to 2018, Agriculture Business and Technology Institute Adjunct Professor at Hartnell College from 2014 to 2017 and a Business Broker Associate for BTI Group/Business Team from 2014 to 2015. Mancera was a Senior Compensation Analyst at Granite Construction from 2011 to 2014 and Senior Financial Analyst at Driscoll Strawberry Associates Inc. from 2007 to 2011, where he was a Marketing Analyst from 2005 to 2007. He was Director of Grower Relations at Colorful Harvest in 2011, Economic/Research Intern at the California Strawberry Commission in 2005 and a Sales Associate at FoodSource from 2001 to 2002. Mancera was a Field Laborer for Agriculture Labor Contractors from 1993 to 2001.

Michelle Passero, 52, of Mill Valley, has been appointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. Passero has been Director of Climate and Nature Based Solutions at the Nature Conservancy since 2008. She was Board Member at the Marin Conservation League from 2007 to 2011, Business Development Executive at EcoSecurities in 2008 and Director of Policy Initiatives at the Pacific Forest Trust from 2000 to 2008.

Frank Salazar, 47, of Imperial, has been appointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. Salazar has been President of Vencer Public Affairs and Strategy since 2020. He was Director of Communications and Community Relations at Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District from 2016 to 2020, Director of Communications for California State Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia from 2014 to 2016 and Special Assistant to State Senator Ben Hueso from 2012 to 2014.

Joy Anne Sterling, 68, of Sebastopol, has been reappointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where she has served since 2013. Sterling has been Chief Executive Officer at Iron Horse Vineyards since 2006, where she was Director of Sales and Marketing from 1985 to 2006. She was a Deputy Bureau Chief at ABC Network News Los Angeles from 1983 to 1985. Sterling is Chair of the California Democratic Party Rural Caucus.

APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Patricia Stock, 59, of Chico, has been appointed to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. Stock has been Dean of the College of Agriculture at California State University, Chico since 2021. She was Director of the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the University of Arizona, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences from 2018 to 2021, where she was a Professor in the Department of Entomology and the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences from 2001 to 2021.

Bates Troy Bowers Jr., 71, of Lockeford, has been appointed to the 2nd District Agricultural Association (San Joaquin County Fair Board). Bowers was Chief Executive Officer at the Amador County Fair from 2007 to 2019. He was Deputy Manager II at the San Joaquin County Fair from 1992 to 2005. Bowers held several positions at the Department of Transportation, District 10 from 2005 to 2007, including Program Analyst and Public Information Officer. Bowers served in the U.S. Air Force from 1970 to 1973. Bowers is a member of the Plymouth Foothills Rotary Club.

Monet Allen, 57, of Montague, has been appointed to the 10th District Agricultural Association (Siskiyou County Fair Board). Allen has been Secretary and Partner at CLT Logging Inc. since 1997. She is a board member of the Siskiyou Family YMCA. This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation.

Alyssa C. Burrone, 31, of Fort Jones, has been appointed to the 10th District Agricultural Association (Siskiyou County Fair Board). Burrone has been a Teacher at Etna Elementary School since 2021, where she has been Varsity Girls Basketball Coach since 2017. Burrone was a Client Services Manager at the Banner Bank from 2016 to 2021. She was Front Desk and Computer Resource Technician at Shasta Regional Medical Group from 2014 to 2016. Burrone is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Shasta and Vice President of Scott Valley Pleasure Park.

Arturo Barajas Jr., 29, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the 52nd District Agricultural Association (Sacramento County Fair Board). Barajas has been a Government Affairs Manager at FanDuel Group since 2021. He was Deputy Secretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture from 2019 to 2021. Barajas was a Legislative Aide at the Office of State Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula from 2016 to 2019.

Evan V. Corder, 34, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the 52nd District Agricultural Association

(Sacramento County Fair Board). Corder has been Principal at Redwood Public Affairs since 2021. He was Vice President of Public Affairs at DeBoo Communications from 2019 to 2021. He held several positions in the Office of State Assemblymember Rob Bonta from 2015 to 2019, including Chief of Staff and Legislative Director. Corder was a Legislative Aide at the Office of State Assemblymember Henry T. Perea from 2011 to 2015. Corder is a member of the Asian Pacific Islander Capitol Association and California Latino Capitol Association.

Serina Correa, 38, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the 52nd District Agricultural Association (Sacramento County Fair Board). Correa has been Director of Finance for Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California since 2020. She was Director of Operations for Health Access California from 2018 to 2019. Correa was a Communications Operations Manager at the Public Policy Institute of California from 2014 to 2018. She participated in the Hispanas Organized for Political Equality Leadership Institute in 2018.

Denise A. Tugade, 31, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the 52nd District Agricultural Association (Sacramento County Fair Board). Tugade has been a Government Relations Advocate at SEIU-UHW since 2020. She was Legislative Director at the Office of State Assemblymember Christy Smith from 2019 to 2020. Tugade was a Legislative Aide at the Office of State Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez from 2018 to 2019. She was a Mail Tree Program and Assembly Democrats Volunteer Coordinator for the Christy Smith for Assembly Campaign in 2018. Tugade held several positions at the Office of State Assemblymember Monique Limon from 2017 to 2018, including Legislative Assistant and Communications Director.

Joe Stephenshaw, 47, of Sacramento, has been appointed Senior Counselor on Infrastructure and Fiscal Affairs in the Office of the Governor. Stephenshaw has been Staff Director for the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee since 2017. He has held several positions in the California Legislature since 2008, including serving as a Policy Consultant in the Office of the Senate President pro Tempore, a Special Advisor to the Speaker of the Assembly, and as a Budget Consultant for both the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. Stephenshaw was a Budget Analyst for the California Department of Finance from 2005 to 2008.

CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCY ON FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD

CDFA announces one vacancy on the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board. The board advises the CDFA secretary on CDFA's Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP), which ensures fertilizing materials are safe, effective, and meet quality guarantees.

As part of the program, FMIP inspectors and investigators located throughout the state conduct routine sampling and inspections, respond to consumer complaints, and enforce laws and regulations that govern the manufacturing and distribution of fertilizing materials. FMIP is funded by fertilizing materials license and product registration fees and mill assessments.

There is one board position available. The term of office for board members is up to three years. This vacancy will fill an unfinished board term of service until October 14, 2022. Board members do not receive compensation, but they are entitled to necessary travel expenses. Board member applicants must hold a current fertilizing

materials license or be a representative of a licensed firm.

Individuals interested in a board appointment must submit a resume and a completed Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire (PMAQ). The PMAQ is available on the CDFA website at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/pdfs/PMAQ_Fertilizer_IAB.pdf. **Both the resume and PMAQ are due by April 15, 2022.**

Send resume and PMAQ via email to Brittnie.Williams@cdfa.ca.gov or by mail to:

CDFA
Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services
Branch
Attn: Brittnie Williams
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

CDFA ANNOUNCES COMMENT PERIOD FOR BEGINNING FARMER AND FARMWORKER TRAINING GRANT

CDFA's Farm Equity Office is seeking public comments on a draft Request for Applications (RFA) for a proposed new grant program, the Beginning Farmer and Farmworker Training and Workforce Development Program Grant (BFFTP). The 30-day public comment period will begin today, March 30th, 2022, and comments will be accepted until April 30th, 2022.

This program will provide support to organizations to enhance or expand beginning farmer and farmworker training/apprenticeship programs. The overall goal is to ensure that resources are dedicated to strengthening support for historically underserved beginning farmers in the first ten years of business, and for farmworkers who need job skills training. A secondary goal of the program is to build and grow regional networks to ensure organizations can provide adequate support and training opportunities for those most underserved in the agriculture industry.

Applicants may apply for two types of awards: program planning and curriculum development grants of up to \$100,000, or program implementation grants up to

\$1,000,000.

The following entities are eligible to apply for this program: non-profit organizations, tribal governments, and community colleges, which are eligible as co-applicants with local partner organizations. Entities applying must have demonstrated expertise in workforce development programs as well as assisting historically underserved, small-scale farmers and farm workers.

The draft RFA can be found at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/bfftp/>.

Comments must be submitted via email by April 30, 2022 at 5:00pm.

CDFA will consider all comments received before releasing a final RFA for this program. Comments will be accepted in the following ways:

Written Comments: Please submit written comments via email to: carmen.carrasco@cdfa.ca.gov.

APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Live/In-Person Comments: The CDFA Farm Equity Office will host two listening sessions during the public comment period to welcome live feedback for each funding track.

The first webinar will be hosted on April 12th at 11:00am via Zoom.

The second webinar will be hosted on April 19th at 11:00am via Zoom. * This webinar will be hosted in English and Spanish and will have opportunities for public comments in both languages.

Information for these sessions is available on the CDFA Grants Page: [CDFA - Grant Programs](#) (ca.gov).

CA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AG TO FOCUS ON DROUGHT AT APRIL 5TH MEETING IN MERCED

The California State Board of Food and Agriculture will focus on drought issues at its upcoming meeting in Merced. With the driest first three months of a year on record and reservoir conditions below historic averages, California is experiencing significant drought impacts. The Board will hear from federal officials, local irrigation, and water districts, as well as community and farmer stakeholders on drought planning and preparedness. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, from 10:00am – 3:00pm at the University of California, Merced (Administration Building, Room #306) – 5200 North Lake Rd, Merced, CA 95343.

MeetingLink: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85271386145>

Password: Cdfa!220

Public comment on the drought will begin at approximately 2:00pm.

Invited speakers include: Regional Director Ernest Conant, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California-Great Basin; Josue Medellin-Azuara and Joshua Viers, University of California Merced; Jarrett Martin, Central California Irrigation District; Michelle Reimers, Turlock Irrigation District; Eric Swenson, Merquin County Water District; Supervisor Scott Silveira, Merced County Board of Supervisors and other invited speakers.

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CARB: PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER UPDATES TO THE CARL MOYER ON-ROAD VOUCHER INCENTIVE PROGRAM (VIP)

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) invites you to participate in a public meeting of the Incentives Program Advisory Group (IPAG) to consider updates be led by Vice Chair Sandra Berg. During last November's CARB Board Hearing, staff heard strong interest from several board members in helping further accelerate zero-emission vehicles and equity work in the Moyer on-road program.

To address this interest, the IPAG will provide a forum for discussing these policy-level issues, with a particular focus on the Carl Moyer Program's On-Road Voucher

Incentive Program (VIP). It will explore and welcome ideas on key issues, including providing greater support and access for small fleets and small businesses statewide, improving the environmental justice performance of the program, and accelerating zero-emission truck funding while better partnering vehicle adoption with infrastructure expansion.

Date: April 20, 2022
Time: 4:00pm – 7:00pm
Location: Zoom Webinar/Teleconference
Register: [HERE](#)

CARB RELEASES FINAL ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING THE 2030 DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK SECTOR METHANE EMISSIONS TARGET

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is releasing the final [Analysis of Progress toward Achieving the 2030 Dairy and Livestock Sector Methane Emissions Target \(Analysis\)](#). This version includes updates based on public comments received in response to a draft Analysis released in June 2021.

CARB developed this Analysis in accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016), which requires CARB to conduct an analysis of the progress the dairy and livestock sector has made toward overcoming barriers to achieving the 2030 methane emissions target of forty percent below 2013 level.