



August 19, 2016

Climate Change:

[AB 197](#) (Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella) is intended to create the semblance of regulatory accountability and legislative oversight regarding the state's current and potential post-2020 climate change program. AB 197 is double-joined with [SB 32](#) (Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills) that seeks to extend the state's current program from 2020 to 2030. Both bills must be signed by the governor to become enacted. AB 197 creates a six-member Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies that has no authority except to make recommendations to the legislature regarding climate change policy. The measure also adds two legislators as non-voting ex officio members to CARB which provides no further oversight as any interested legislator can now attend a CARB meeting or workshop and make comments but cannot vote. It also creates pseudo term limits of six years, but allows the appointing authority to renew the appointment. AB 197 is an attempt to assuage the business community concerns that the legislature has virtually no authority over the state's extremely far-reaching climate change program. AB 197 is on the Senate floor awaiting a vote. Farm Bureau opposes.

[SB 32](#) (Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills) would extend the state's current greenhouse gas (GHG) program to 2030. Current statute gives the state until 2020 to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels. SB 32 would establish a new target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 with no oversight by the Legislature and unfettered authority by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to achieve the new GHG reduction goal. It was amended on the Senate floor to remove new authority to add short-lived climate pollutants which would mandate draconian GHG reductions targeted at dairy and livestock operations. SB 32 is on the Assembly floor awaiting a vote. Farm Bureau opposes.

[SB 1383](#) (Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens) would allow the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to regulate methane emissions from livestock operations based on a draft plan developed by CARB that sets completely unrealistic goals for methane emission reductions and will drive dairies out of California. Discussions are underway with the author that Farm Bureau is actively involved with to find a more reasonable solution, but there is no current proposal that removes the concerns of the dairy and livestock industry at this time. SB 1383 will be heard by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee next week for further amendments. Farm Bureau opposes.

Commodities:

[AB 1826](#) (Mark Stone, D-Monterey Bay) would revise the fee structure for organic registration under the State Organic Program (SOP) and reduce paperwork burdens associated with the SOP registration process. The bill also adds a representative of an accredited certifying agency to the existing California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC). Farm Bureau supports AB 1826, which passed off of the Senate floor with a 39-0 vote.

[AB 2324](#) (Susan Eggman, D-Stockton) would allow the sale of raw wool at Certified Farmers' Markets. The bill had included specific record keeping requirement for farmers to keep records on the products sold at markets, but that provision was recently removed. Farm Bureau supports AB 2324, which passed off of the Senate floor with a 39-0 vote.

[AB 2755](#) (James Gallagher, R-Plumas Lake) will create the opportunity for civil actions in the amount of three times the value of stolen beehives against individuals suspected of taking the hives. This is modeled after similar provisions in the Food and Agriculture Code, which provide for quadruple damages against people who steal cattle and double damages against people whose dogs kill or injure livestock. Farm Bureau supports AB 2755, which was signed by the Governor this week.

[AB 2805](#) (Kristin Olsen, R-Modesto) would require the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to create the California Agriculture Cargo Theft Prevention Working Group. The working group would manage by CHP and can include members from County Agricultural Commissioner offices, district attorneys, sheriff departments and agricultural industry stakeholders with the intent of responding to agricultural cargo theft. Farm Bureau supports AB 2805, which passed off of the Senate floor with a 39-0 vote.

Labor:

[AB 1066](#) (Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego) would change the current 10 hours per day overtime threshold for agricultural workers replacing it with overtime pay after 8 hours in a work day or 40 hours in a work week after a four-year phase-in period beginning January 1, 2017. AB 1066 was amended this week to give employers with 25 or fewer employees an additional 3 years to comply with the phasing in of the new overtime requirements. The Senate President pro Tempore, Kevin De Leon, is the floor jockey and will bring up the bill next week for a vote. As floor jockey, you explain the purpose of a bill, answer questions and are expected to secure the necessary votes for passage. Farm Bureau opposes.

Transportation:

[AB 995](#) (Frank Bigelow, R-O'Neals) was held in the Senate last year, was recently amended and now creates a new pilot transportation program in the counties of Madera, Kings, and Fresno. The distance that that agricultural vehicles that qualify under the current Special Equipment Plate program can travel will be extended to 20 air-miles when transporting harvested goods from the point of origin (field) to the first point of processing. Qualifying vehicles will not be required to register or pay weight fees, although, if they choose to participate in the pilot program, will be subject to the BIT program and the Motor Carrier program. The data collected during the pilot program will be used by the CHP and DMV to draft a safety report that will be presented to the Legislature in 2020. The results of the pilot will determine if the program will go statewide. AB 995 passed out of the Senate on a 37-0 vote and will go next to the Assembly floor for concurrence in Senate amendments. Farm Bureau supports.

Water:

The State Water Resources Control Board will hold an “informational fair on water right measurement and reporting” on August 22, 2016. The purpose of next Monday’s informational fair is to facilitate better understanding and compliance with measurement and reporting requirements recently adopted by the State Water Board to implement previous legislation ([SB 88](#)). The informational fair will bring together water right holders, vendors, and other professionals employed in the water measurement industry to discuss ways to reasonably and practically measure diversions of water in compliance with the new requirements. State Water Board staff will also be present to answer questions. Additional information on the fair and the reporting and measurement requirements may be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/water_use.shtml

Questions can be directed to the State Water Board’s Paul Wells at Paul.wells@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 323-5195. Farm Bureau will attend.

[SB 554](#) (Lois Wolk, D-Davis) would eliminate the July 1, 2018, sunset on the current authorization of a 75 percent state cost-share in the Delta levee maintenance or improvement program. Without this measure the state reimbursement would be reduced to 50 percent. The measure was amended this week to extend the July 2018 sunset to July 2020 instead of outright eliminating the sunset. The full Senate still needs to approve the measure. Farm Bureau supports.