



FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL UPDATE

June 14, 2019

BUDGET

The State Legislature has moved forward a \$214.8 billion State budget to Governor Newsom in advance of the June 15th deadline. Governor Newsom has until the start of the 2019-2020 budget year (July 1st) to sign, veto or modify portions of this proposed budget. Budget trailer bills will follow the formal budget action to enact the budget and deal with remaining funding priorities. Items of note are as follows:

Agriculture, Generally

The Budget includes, among other things:

- \$5.7m to CDFA and EPA to assist in the transition to pesticide alternatives (including non-chemical pest management), in the form of research and technical assistance;
- \$3.3m ongoing and 23 positions to respond to outbreaks of the Exotic Newcastle Disease;
- \$4.5m and 14 positions to perform the first-year program development and implementation of Proposition 12 (approved as of November 2018);

Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Cap and Trade

Included in the state budget was some funding for agricultural programs out of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Funds provided include:

- \$65 Million – FARMER Program (Ag Diesel Engine Replacement)
- \$28 Million – Healthy Soils Program
- \$34 Million – Dairy Methane Reduction

The California Legislature approved a \$214.8 billion budget on Thursday. The 2019-20 Budget includes \$200 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and in accordance with the provisions from [SB 901](#). The \$200 million is dedicated to CAL FIRE for various forest health and fire prevention projects, dedicated prescribed fire crews and other fuel reduction programs.

Staff contact: Robert Spiegel rspiegel@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647

Agriculture, Generally

The Budget includes, among other things:

- \$5.7m to CDFA and EPA to assist in the transition to pesticide alternatives (including non-chemical pest management), in the form of research and technical assistance;
- \$3.3m ongoing and 23 positions to respond to outbreaks of the Exotic Newcastle Disease;
- \$4.5m and 14 positions to perform the first-year program development and implementation of Proposition 12 (approved as of November 2018);

Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.

Water

On Sunday, June 9th the Budget Conference Committee took action to make sure every Californian has access to safe and affordable drinking water. The Legislature approved and sent a budget to the Governor this week with the drinking water provisions that include \$100 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and \$30 million from the General Fund this year. A Budget Trailer Bill will come in the following weeks and provide the framework for the Safe Drinking Water Program and Fund. Additionally, the Budget Trailer Bill will specify that five percent of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will be continuously appropriated beginning next year with an annual cap of \$130 million. The General Fund will act as a backstop in the event that the Safe Drinking Water Fund falls short. The funding will sunset in 2030. *Staff contact: Danny Merkley dmerkley@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647*

Wildlife

Budget trailer bill language was released this week including the resources trailer bill, AB 85, (Committee on Budget). Included in the bill is language to extend the sunset of the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF). The HCF provides \$30 million annually for the acquisition of habitat for mountain lions and other wildlife as well as restoration and enhancement of natural lands. The HCF was created under Proposition 117 in 1990 and is set to expire in 2020. Farm Bureau is concerned with extending the fund due to the continued funding of land acquisition by the state. California currently has a backlog of deferred maintenance on the property it owns of approximately \$20 billion. Acquiring additional lands without management funding is a poor policy decision. CFBF is opposed to this provision of AB 85 and is requesting amendments to require endowment funding to pay for ongoing management of lands acquired with HCF moneys. AB 85 passed out of the Senate Budget Committee this week with a 12-5 vote. Budget trailer bills are expected to be taken up on the Senate and Assembly floors next week. *Staff Contact: Noelle Cremers at (916) 446-4647 or ncremers@cfbf.com.*

OTHER

Forestry

Farm Bureau has joined with a forestry coalition supporting AB 1160, (Dahle), a bill which would extend sustained yield plans (SYP) from 10 years to 20 years. SYPs are one of the mechanisms that timberland owners can use to meet the State's requirement for maintaining maximum sustained timber production by ensuring that any timber harvesting continues to be sustainable. SYPs generally include projections of timber growth and harvesting over a 100-year or longer planning horizon, assessments of watershed and wildlife resources, and constraints of other resource values on timber production. The process to approve an SYP is so significant that timberland owners should be allowed to utilize a valid plan for longer than 10 years. This extension should encourage greater utilization of SYPs, provides additional stability and certainty for landowners, state regulators and the public. The bill passed the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee unanimously and now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee. *Staff contact: Robert Spiegel rspiegel@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647*

Industrial Hemp

The Office of Administrative Law has officially approved emergency regulations put forth by the Department of Food and Agriculture identifying approved sampling and testing protocols for industrial hemp production. They can be found [here](#). *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Pesticides

SB 86, (Durazo) has been “gutted and amended” to now prohibit the use of any pesticide containing the active ingredient chlorpyrifos. This bill was previously attempted in SB 458 which was held in Appropriations. Subsequently, The Governor has taken action to cancel the chemical’s registration and appropriated money in the budget to identify alternatives. Farm Bureau is in strong opposition. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, troschen@cfbf.com or 916-446-4647.*

Water

AB 217, (Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella) was gutted and amended this week. Autumn Burke, D-Inglewood is now the author of the measure that is the federal tax conformity measure the Governor was asking the Legislature for. *Staff contact: Danny Merkley dmerkley@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647*

Wildfire

AB 1516, (Laura Friedman, D – Glendale) makes various changes to improve defensible space requirements, electrical transmission or distribution line vegetation clearance requirements within high fire risk areas, and CAL FIRE’s local government technical assistance requirements with the intent to improve the fire safety of California communities. The bill is fashioned around further reducing fire risk. Language in the bill restricts planting of vegetation near electrical distribution and transmission lines that could come within 10 feet of any line at any time which is the clearance requirement for the highest voltage in high fire threat areas; distribution line clearances are much less than 10 feet. The requirement could impact orchards that might be embedded within high fire threat areas, even though orchards are recognized as not posing fire risks. CFBF is in discussions with the author’s office to address our concerns about the potential impacts on orchard pruning requirements. The bill will be heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on June 25 and CFBF has taken an Oppose Unless Amended position while discussions are pursued for an amendment to address concerns. *Staff contact: Karen Norene Mills, kmills@cfbf.com, 916-561-5655*

Landowners would no longer be able to allow fur-trappers onto their property to help manage wildlife if AB 273, (Gonzalez). AB 273 (Gonzalez) bans the recreational and commercial trapping of wildlife for fur. The bill continues to allow trapping specifically for depredation, but without recreational and commercial trappers it is likely that trapping costs would increase and fewer trappers would be able to help address wildlife damage to agricultural operations. AB 273 was heard by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee this week where it passed with a vote of 6-2. Farm Bureau is opposed to AB 273. *Staff contact: Noelle Cremers at (916) 446-4647 or ncremers@cfbf.com.*

The California legislature would urge Congress to appropriate \$4 million to help eradicate Nutria in California if AJR 8, (Quirk) passes. The resolution specifically urges Congress to add California to the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 and appropriate \$4 million towards a Nutria eradication effort in California. The Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee passed AJR 8 this week with an 8-0 vote. CFBF supports AJR 8. *Staff contact: Noelle Cremers at (916) 446-4647 or ncremers@cfbf.com.*

Farm Bureau organized a tour for the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and Department of Fish and Wildlife after the Commission’s meeting in Redding this week. Shasta County Farm Bureau member Shannon Wooten hosted the group on his ranch and local Farm Bureau members explained efforts they are making in vegetation management to reduce fire risk and improve wildlife habitat. There was also much discussion about predator management and the impacts that bears, wolves, and mountain lions are having on wildlife and livestock producers. In addition to Farm Bureau

members, UCCE and Wildlife Services provided information on ranch economics and the tools available to help manage bears and wolves. The afternoon provided a good opportunity to allow wildlife managers and decision makers a better understanding of agricultural production. *Staff Contact: Noelle Cremers at (916) 446-4647 or ncremers@cfbf.com.*

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) granted candidacy status to four species of bumble bees under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The Xerces Society, Defenders of Wildlife, and Center for Food Safety petitioned for listing under CESA of the Crotch bumble bee, Franklin's bumble bee, Western bumble bee, and Suckley Cuckoo bumble bee last October. At its meeting this week, the Commission took testimony on whether or not protection of the four bumble bee species was warranted under CESA. Despite the fact that insects are not able to be listed under CESA and the petitioners failed to include California specific information in the petition, the Commission voted 3-1 to list the four species. Now that they have been granted candidacy status, the four species have the full protections of CESA and take is prohibited. Candidacy also begins a one-year process for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct a status review of the four species. Farm Bureau testified in opposition to the listing before the Commission and will continue to work with other agricultural organizations in a response to the Commission's decision. *Staff contact: Noelle Cremers at (916) 446-4647 or ncremers@cfbf.com.*

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) would have a new Delta Fisheries Management policy if it adopts the policy put forward by its Wildlife Resources Committee. The draft policy would replace a decades old Striped Bass policy with one that recognizes the importance of managing Delta fisheries in a way that improves habitat for listed species and alleviates threats rather than simply promoting populations of Striped Bass. The goal of the policy shift is to allow for better management of predatory species that kill many juvenile salmonids traveling through the Delta. Last month the Wildlife Resources Committee of the Commission voted to put forward the policy for consideration by the full Fish and Game Commission. This week, the Commission voted 4-0 to consider adopting the policy at its August meeting. Farm Bureau expressed support for formal consideration by the Commission. *Staff contact: Noelle Cremers at (916) 446-4647 or ncremers@cfbf.com.*