



October 5, 2007

FCFB elects directors/officers for 2007-08

Members of the Fresno County Farm Bureau elected the 2007-08 Board of Directors and officers at the organization's annual Meeting of the Members on Thursday.

Members elected the following directors and officers:

President	Russel Efird
First Vice President	Dan Errotabere
2nd Vice President	Steve Nash
Secretary/Treasurer	Ken Tatami
Immediate Past President	Pat Ricchiuti
Director at Large	Earl Hall
Director at Large	Paul Betancourt
Director at Large	Alfreda Sebasto
Director at Large	Mark Sorenson
Director at Large	Jerald Rebensdorf
Commodity Chair, Citrus	Shawn Stevenson
Commodity Chair, Cotton	Tim O'Neill
Commodity Chair, Dairy	Donny Rollin
Commodity Chair, Deciduous Fruit	Jim Montross
Commodity Chair, Field Crops	Mark McKean
Commodity Chair, Grapes	John Arrellano
Commodity Chair, Livestock	Mark Thompson
Commodity Chair, Poultry	Michelle Ganci
Commodity Chair, Raisins	Rick Stark
Commodity Chair, Tree/Nuts	Jason Baldwin
Commodity Chair, Vegetables	Jeremy Lane
Rural Health & Safety Chair West	Brian Pacheco
	1. Mickey Kenneson
	2. George Porter
Central	1. Kathi Woodward
	2. Alcidia Gomes
East	1. Theresa Sebasto
	2. Ruby Hefley
Golden Corridor	1. Don Wilson
	2. Bill Hammerstrom
CFBF Director	Debbie Jacobsen
Rural Health & Safety Chair	Brian Pacheco

In addition, delegates were elected to attend the CFBF Annual Meeting in December, including Russel Efird, Dan Errotabere, Steve Nash, Ken Tatami, Pat Ricchiuti, and alternates Donny Rollin and Kathi Woodward. The Board also approved the budget for 2007-08.

Fresno County declares emergency situation in water supply

On Tuesday, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution requesting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to declare a state of emergency resulting from water shortages that will occur in the upcoming water year because of expected shortages in west side Fresno County surface water supplies.

Pumping limitations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta because of a recent legal decision on the Endangered Species Act-listed Delta Smelt have raised serious concern about surface water supplies for the County's west side agricultural region as well as for most of the southern two-thirds of the state. Regardless of precipitation this winter, south of Delta agricultural water contractors may receive only 10-45 percent of their surface water contract allocation.

At Tuesday's meeting, members of Mendota, San Joaquin and the Fresno County EOC articulated the widespread impacts from having an inadequate water supply for the county's number one industry. In addition, the cities of San Joaquin and Mendota are currently considering resolutions from their respective councils.

The reductions in water supplies will force substantial changes in cropping patterns and the fallowing of numerous, otherwise productive acreage. It appears that the available water supply may only be sufficient to sustain permanent crops currently planted in western Fresno County, allowing for little or no irrigation water available for the production of annual fruits, vegetables and other field crops. Significant alternating of annual cropping patterns could have significant adverse impacts on the cost, availability and quality of fruits and vegetables for consumers.

Moreover, reductions in agricultural plantings resulting from these cutbacks in water supplies will have a devastating impact on employment, sales and business activity for all valley communities.

Surface water reductions will result in more widespread and intensive groundwater pumping, thereby increasing the costs of production and impacting an already over-drafted groundwater aquifer and add to the increased risk of subsidence.

In the resolution, the Board of Supervisors requests the Governor to declare that a state of emergency exists resulting from the impending water supply shortages and to direct all state agencies to undertake all necessary actions.

State Legislature water hearing postponed until Monday

The State Senate Natural Resources hearing on water bond legislation, as part of the Special Legislative Session, has been rescheduled to next Monday at 1 p.m.

The hearing will focus on SB2X 3 (Senators Cogdill & Ackerman), which contains \$9 billion for financing water supply reliability and environmental restoration programs, as requested by the Governor. This bill's provides \$1.9 billion for Delta Sustainability, \$1 billion for Water Supply Reliability, \$5.6 billion for statewide Water Storage Development Projects, and \$500 million for a Resource Stewardship and Environmental Restoration Program. This proposal does not include a provision for groundwater protection. This proposal does, however, provide important funding for improved Delta conveyance and for statewide water storage development projects. It is supported by the agricultural and the water communities.

Another bill, SB2X 2 (Senators Perata, Machado, and Steinberg) calls for financing for water development, but it does not include a provision for statewide water storage development projects. It is scheduled to be heard on Monday as well.

SB2X 2 contains for \$5.8 billion for financing water supply reliability and environmental restoration programs. The bill's components focus on \$2.4 billion for Delta Sustainability, \$2 billion for Water Supply Reliability, \$400 million for Groundwater Protection, and \$1 billion for a Resource Stewardship and Environmental Restoration Program. This proposal also provides important funding for improved Delta conveyance. It is not supported by agricultural and water entities unless it is amended.

An organized effort is underway by supporters of SB2X 3 to attend Monday's hearing. Charter bus transportation is being arranged. For details contact Mario Santoyo, of the Friant Water Authority, at (559) 799-0701.

Chamber committee looks at state water issues Friday

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce's Ag, Water and Environment Committee will look at long-term solutions to fix a broken Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta at its monthly meeting tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 5 at noon at the Chamber office, downtown.

"CALFED up with the Peripheral Canal" will include presentations by Jim Snow, of Westlands Water District, and Martin McIntyre, of the San Luis Water District, who will discuss the quest for a long-term solution for the San Francisco Bay / Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. For details, contact the Chamber office at (559) 495-4818.

CFBF loses true advocate

California Farm Bureau Federation Director of Labor Affairs Roy Gabriel died unexpectedly this week, while on business in Washington D.C. Services are pending.

The entire state and county Farm Bureau family is deeply saddened by this huge personal and professional loss. For almost 35 years, Mr. Gabriel was a tireless advocate on behalf of California agriculture. From the front lines of the days of union organizing to the current effort to secure effective immigration reform, Mr. Gabriel was an extraordinary source of knowledge and counsel for farmers and ranchers.

Mr. Gabriel worked for California Farm Bureau Federation for nearly 35 years, except for a short time in the late 1990s when he served as the chief deputy director of the State Department of Industrial Relations. He served as Farm Bureau's director of labor affairs, as chief operating officer of the Farm Employers Labor Service and, in the late 1980s as general manager of ALFA Program, which worked on immigration status issues.

A statement from CFBF released this week said, "Anyone who met Roy, for even a minute, would know he was a passionate advocate for the causes in which he believed. His was a respected voice inside Farm Bureau, in the State Legislature, in Congress, within government agencies and among other agricultural labor groups.

"His passing is a terrible shock for all of us. Roy leaves a big void, not just because of his dedication to Farm Bureau and its members but

because of his larger-than-life personality and his infectious enthusiasm.”

For funeral information, please contact the CFBF at (916) 561-5500. Please keep the Gabriel Family in your thoughts and prayers.

Big Fresno Fair opens; FCFB co-sponsors newest attraction

Wednesday was the opening day of the Big Fresno Fair – the first of 13 days of agricultural education, food, fun and sense of community.

FCFB's name is proudly shown atop the Fair's newest permanent attraction, Catfish Falls, a catch-and-release fishing pond for children. FCFB is a co-sponsor of the attraction, located north of the Livestock Barns.

While at the fair, be sure to visit the Agriculture Building, Junior Exhibits, and Livestock Barns to support the many agricultural-related exhibitors who make up a large part of the fair. Phase 1 of the Junior Livestock Auction gets underway on Saturday, with the dairy replacement, goats and fur and feathers auctions. Phase 2, which includes lambs, hogs and beef cattle, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13. For details, visit the Fair's Web site at:

www.fresnofair.com.

Ag in the Classroom Statewide Conference is Oct. 12-14

The California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom will hold its annual AITC Symposium in Pacific Grove on Oct. 12-14.

This three-day cross-curricular conference will elaborate on several major subjects, including water use, food safety, nutrition, biotechnology, energy and land use.

The symposium theme, "Literacy for Life," will prepare teachers to educate their students about California's important role as the leading agricultural state in the nation. Approximately 300 educators participate. For details, visit: www.cfaitc.org or call (800) 700-AITC.

USDA EQIP Program sign-ups underway – Deadline is Nov. 2

Conservation cost-share applications for the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are being accepted now through Nov. 2. The program provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers interested in making voluntary improvements to natural resources on land they own or manage.

It is recommended that growers have a conservation plan in place while applying for EQIP funds. NRCS staff can assist with developing plans and helping growers assess resource needs and schedule the best remedies on a timetable that makes sense for the landowner and for the land.

EQIP is a broad-ranging program that shares the cost related to improvements in soil, water, air, range and wildlife habitat on farms and ranches. It can help in implementing water conservation, integrated pest management, nutrient management, air quality improvements, rangeland management, manure management and more. A more detailed explanation of local goals and ranking processes can be found at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/. Growers who are interested in applying should contact the USDA Fresno County Farm Service Center at (559) 276-7494.

Next Week's Calendar

- Oct. 8** FACT Class V first session, 8 a.m., FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.
- Oct. 9** Fair Education ag education presentations (Oct 9-12), 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Junior Exhibits.
- Oct. 10** Fresno Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office; Operation Clean Air Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m.; Fresno Fair Past Directors Night, 6 p.m., Fairgrounds

This Week's Calendar

- Oct. 2** San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizen's Advisory Committee; Meeting with Labor Commissioner Angela Bradstreet
- Oct. 3** Fresno County Ag Land Conservation Committee; Big Fresno Fair opening day ceremonies
- Oct. 4** Fair Education presentations at fair; FCFB Annual Meeting of the Members and Board of Directors.
- Oct. 5** Fair Education presentations at fair; Social Security No-match meeting; Chamber Ag, Water and the Environment Committee

Have you visited Fresno Farm Bureau's web site lately? Check it out at: www.fcfb.org. If you have trouble getting on the site, call us at (559) 237-0263.

**Fresno County
Farm Bureau**

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