



September 7, 2007

916-651-4033 / 714-573-1853 /
senator.Ackerman@sen.ca.gov

Push for water bond legislation now

As the clock ticks away on the California Legislature's final regular session, agricultural and water organizations are urging their members to contact State Assembly and Senate representatives to push for their support for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's comprehensive water plan, which includes funds for reservoir construction.

You are urged to contact the Valley State Legislative delegation today, letting them know that funding for the proposed Temperance Flat Reservoir is imperative for the Central Valley. Funds for Temperance Flat above Millerton Reservoir and for the Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley are included in the Governor's bond proposal. This is the critical final hours of the legislative session and calls, emails, and faxes do make a difference. Please contact the following members to request their support today:

Senator Dave Cogdill (R-Fresno)
916-651-4014 / 559-253-7122 /
senator.cogdill@senate.ca.gov

Senator Dean Florez (D-Shafter)
916-651-4016 / 661-395-2620 / senator.florez@sen.ca.gov

Senator Roy Ashburn (R-Bakersfield)
916-651-4018 / 661-323-0443 /
senator.ashburn@sen.ca.gov

Senator Jeff Denham (D – Merced)
916-651-4012 / 209-726-5495 /
senator.Denham@sen.ca.gov

Senator Don Perata (D – Oakland)
President pro Tempore of the Senate
916-651-4009 / 510-286-1333 /
senator.perata@sen.ca.gov

Senator Mike Machado (D – Linden)
916-651-4005 / 209-948-7930 /
senator.machado@sen.ca.gov

Senator Dick Ackerman (R – Tustin)
Senate Republican Leader

Assemblyman Mike Villines (R-Clovis)
Republican Floor Leader
916-319-2029 / 559-446-2029 /
assemblymember.Villines@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblyman Fabian Nunez (D – LA)
Speaker of the Assembly
916-319-2046 / 213-620-4646 /
speaker.nunez@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblywoman Nicole Parra (D – Hanford)
916-319-2030 / 559-585-7170 /
assemblymember.parra@assembly.ca.gov

Assemblyman Juan Arambula (D – Fresno)
916-319-2031 / 559-445-3532 /
assemblymember.Arambula@asm.ca.gov

Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani (D-Tracy)
916-319-2017 / 209-948-7479 /
assemblymember.galgiani@assembly.ca.gov

Social Security "No-Match" briefing to be held Sept. 12

A management briefing on the Social Security no-match issue will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 12, from 8 to 10 a.m. at the CATI Conference Room, California State University, Fresno, 2910 E. Barstow Ave.

The briefing, which is co-sponsored by California Farm Bureau Federation, FELS, AgSAFE and CATI, will be presented by Michael C. Saqui and Anthony P. Raimondo, of Saqui & Raimondo Counselors to Management. The briefing will cover:

- Dealing with the Department of Homeland Security's Safe Harbor Regulation
- I-9 Procedures
- Protocols for DHS or ICE Audits and Raids
- Strategic Planning for Agricultural Operations through Guest Worker Programs

Due to space constraints, attendance is limited. To make a reservation, call (559) 278-4405. There is no cost to attend.

Water Quality Boards hold workshop in Clovis on Sept. 13

Agricultural water users urged to attend

The State Water Resources Control Board and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board are holding a joint workshop on the Regional Water Board's Irrigated Lands Program on Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. at the Clovis City Council Chambers, 1033 Fifth St. in Clovis.

This workshop will give interested members of the agricultural community, agencies involved with agriculture, and the public an opportunity to hear Central Valley Water Board staff provide an update on the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Program and provide comments and recommendations to the State and Regional Water Boards. Interested parties are invited to provide comments and recommendations concerning the Irrigated Lands Program.

It is expected the environmental community will be present and will be making comments. It is very important that the agricultural and water communities attend and voice their concerns and suggestions for improving the Irrigated Lands Program.

The Irrigated Lands Program allows landowners to comply with water quality regulations by joining a watershed coalition group and apply for a group waiver, or apply for an individual discharger waiver, or submit a report of waste discharge and obtain waste discharge requirements. Coalition groups organize growers to share best management practices, conduct monitoring of rivers and creeks, prepare required reports, apply for grants, and work cooperatively toward improving water quality.

Both Boards will not take any action at the workshop, but following this public workshop, the State Board and Regional Water Board will consider whether further action regarding the Irrigated Lands Program is necessary.

Dairy/Feedlot Ordinance to be subject of Chamber meeting

The proposed Fresno County dairy/feedlot ordinance will be the subject of a Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce meeting on Friday, Sept. 14 at noon at the Chamber office, downtown.

The Chamber's Ag, Water and Environment Committee is hosting the lunch meeting, "Milking Air Quality with Fresno County Dairies." Scheduled to

speak are Steve Nash, of Nash Dairies and FCFB second vice president; David Lighthall, of the Central Valley Health Policy Institute; Mary Savala, of the Fresno Health Dairy Campaign; and Brian Ross, of the County of Fresno.

The proposed ordinance calls for changes to the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance, which would include provisions to review and regulate new dairy cattle and feedlot facilities and the expansion of existing dairy/feedlot facilities through a land use permit process.

Lunch will be provided. Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling Amy Huerta, of the Chamber, at (559) 498-4800 or email: ahuerta@fresnochamber.com.

CFBF's Farm Team is urging action on air board bill

California Farm Bureau's Farm Team is urging members to contact their Assembly members to vote no on SB 179, which would expand the number of board members of the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control Board.

SB 179, by Sen. Machado, undermines the importance of government accountability by expanding the air board by four members, two of which are appointed by the Governor and not accountable to district residents or elected by constituents. SB 179 is on the Assembly Floor waiting to be taken up for a vote.

Ask your legislators to vote on meaningful solutions that will help clean the air, not increase government bureaucracy. Make sure there is fair representation on the San Joaquin Unified Air Pollution Control Board. For details, visit the CFBF Web site at www.cfbf.com and click on Farm Team.

Trade seminar set for Sept. 11 in Fresno

A comprehensive trade seminar sponsored by the Northern California District Export Council, the Center for International Trade Development, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the San Joaquin Valley International Trade Association and U.S. Export Assistance Center in Fresno will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the U.C. Building, Inyo/Kern Conference Room, 550 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno.

The International Financial Solutions Forum will cover trade resources for public and private

sectors, international credit and political risk insurance, financing solutions for middle market companies, foreign exchange solutions, and control and access funds worldwide.

The seminar costs \$49 per person. To register and for more information, visit:

<http://www.buyusa.gov/fresno/xforum.html>

Ag exports to reach record levels

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns last week predicted that agricultural exports will reach a record \$79 billion for 2007.

USDA projects agricultural exports will reach \$83.5 billion for fiscal year 2008. The agency's report notes growth and new sales across all major agricultural product groups.

For 2008, beef exports are expected to increase \$400 million due to larger volume. As for agricultural imports, the agency projects an increase of \$4.5 billion next year, for a total value of \$75 billion, resulting in an \$8.5 billion trade surplus in 2008.

Fresno Fair Education Program looking for volunteers

The Big Fresno Fair's Education Program is again looking for volunteers to help with the school tours held during the October fair.

The school tours will be held on the mornings of Oct. 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12. Volunteers will be needed to assist the students and teachers in the various buildings and to help make their visits more educational.

For the past 15 years, volunteers have provided this important service to the Fresno Fair. For the past five years, Fresno County Farm Bureau has taken its Fabulous Food Machine presentations to the Fair to provide additional agricultural education for the visiting students and teachers.

Persons interested in volunteering to help with the Fair Education Program can contact Ruby Hefley at (559) 266-1067. Those interested in helping with FCFB's Fabulous Food Machine presentations should contact Liz Hudson at (559) 237-0263 or lizh@fcfb.org.

Words to live by...

Attitude is everything. Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle. Live simply. Love generously. Care

deeply. Speak kindly. Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... It's about learning to dance in the rain.

A smile a day...

Growing old gracefully? It is possible, if you can laugh about it! Here are some thoughts about The Aging Process...

* Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

* It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.

* These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief."

* Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

* Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old; You grow old because you stop laughing.

This Week's Calendar

Sept. 3 Labor Day Holiday. Office closed.

Sept. 4 San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizen's Advisory Committee

Sept. 5 USDA meeting on Farm Bill

Sept. 6 FCFB Board of Directors

Next Week's Calendar

Sept. 9 Ag Boosters BBQ, Borba Ranch, 5 p.m. (559) 278-4266

Sept. 10 Regional Food System focus group meeting, 1 p.m., FCFB office

Sept. 11 Common Threads Committee meeting, 10 a.m., FCFB office

Sept. 12 Chamber State of the County Address, 7 a.m., Robert Schoettler Conference Center, 2233 Ventura Ave.; Centerville School (Sanger) Fabulous Food Machine presentation, 9 a.m.; Fresno Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office; Operation Clean Air Board meeting, 4 p.m.

Sept. 13 Central Valley Water Awareness Committee, 1:30 p.m., Flood Control office

Sept. 14 Chamber Ag, Water and Environment Committee, noon, Chamber office

Visit www.fcfb.org

Fresno County
Farm Bureau

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