



Fresno County Farm Bureau

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Show your support—Rally for water on July 1 in Downtown Fresno

Valley residents, farm workers, farmers, business owners and elected officials will call for action to address the Valley's water crisis at a Rally for Water next Wednesday, July 1 at Fresno City Hall, P St. between Fresno and Tulare streets in Downtown Fresno. The Rally will begin at noon, followed by a Sidewalk Solidarity March.

With added water supply uncertainty from the recent biological opinion on salmon and continued Delta pumping restrictions because of the Delta Smelt, the California Latino Water Coalition is organizing the rally to urge action to prevent even more losses in surface water supplies for farms and rural communities.

Many people are beginning to recognize the social and economic problems the regulatory drought is causing for the region, and are asking what they can do to help. Participation in the rally and urging action by policy makers is one way to help. Your help is needed in getting the word out to everyone to participate. A handout containing the details is available on-line at <http://www.fcfb.org/index.php>. Please feel free to print and distribute it or forward it to prospective participants.

For details about the Rally or to join the effort, contact: Shawn Coburn at (559) 696-7777; Ryan Ferguson at (559) 469-6804; or Mario Santoyo at (559) 799-0701.

Interior Secretary Salazar to hold Drought Town Hall meeting in Fresno on Sunday

Details are still being finalized for an expected visit to the drought-impacted San Joaquin Valley by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and federal water officials on Sunday in Fresno.

Expected to join Secretary Salazar are Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor and members of the California Congressional Delegation. The Town Hall meeting will be held on Sunday, June 28, from 2:30 - 4 p.m. in the Satellite Student Union at California State University, Fresno.

City of Fresno passes resolution requesting drought relief and supports efforts to address west side water cutbacks

The City of Fresno has joined a growing list of elected officials who are calling for economic relief from an emergency declaration due to the drought and for regulatory and legislative relief from Delta pumping restrictions.

On Thursday, the Fresno City Council and Mayor's office approved a resolution supporting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's declaration of a State of Emergency in February and last week's declaration of a major disaster for Fresno County due to drought conditions. The Mayor and Council acknowledge and support the Governor's request to President Obama requesting him to declare a major disaster for Fresno County.

Councilmember Andreas Borgeas and Larry Westerlund requested the action because of the economic and social impacts to Fresno County. In a Report to the City Council, the Council members state, "It is estimated that one out of every five jobs in Fresno County is related to agriculture. When water supplies are more readily available in most years, agricultural production in Fresno County exceeds \$5.3 billion dollars per year in direct revenue, generating for local economies \$3.50 for each dollar in direct receipts. The majority of local agriculturally derived revenue directly benefits the economy of the City of Fresno."

Those who spoke in favor of adopting the resolution included: FCFB Executive Director Ryan Jacobsen, Martin McIntyre of San Luis Water District, Sarah Woolf of Westlands Water District, Tricia Geringer of Congressman Radanovich's office, Mike Pranchini of the Building Industry Association and others.

Kings River Fisheries Management Program's marks 10th anniversary

The Kings River Fisheries Management Program, a partnership of the Kings River Water Association, Kings River Conservation District and California Department of Fish and Game, will commemorate the successful Kings River Fisheries Management Program at Avocado Lake County Park on Friday, June 26 at 10 a.m. The event will include recognition of the Fisheries Management Program's 10th anniversary and many projects, activities and accomplishments, and a signing ceremony to renew the Management Program.

The consensus-based Kings River Fisheries Management Program was established voluntarily 10 years ago. It has resulted in significantly higher Kings River fishery flow releases from Pine Flat Dam, more cold water stored in Pine Flat Reservoir, many habitat improvements, financial contributions to make it all happen, increased public awareness of angling and important involvement in the program by anglers themselves. The program has been called a model for cooperation between water agencies and environmental interests.

For additional details or to RSVP for the event, call (559) 266-0767.

Clean Water Act legislation moves out of committee

A bill to expand the regulatory reach of the Federal Clean Water Act was approved in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last week and now moves forward.

S. 787 would delete the word "navigable" from the Clean Water Act, thus expanding the regulatory authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers to cover all "intrastate waters" and "activities affecting these waters." It means essentially the EPA and Army Corps

would regulate nearly every wet area in the nation, including an estimated 55 million acres of prior converted cropland, according to California Farm Bureau Federation. The removal of the word "navigable" essentially puts stock tanks, drainage ditches, any puddle or water feature found on family farms and ranches--potentially even ground water--under federal regulations.

The new provisions would require farmers and ranchers to obtain federal permits in an area traditionally reserved for the states in order to carry out their daily land management activities. This will greatly increase the cost and time associated with managing stock ponds, ditches, gutters, and possibly even groundwater. All interstate and navigable waterways, streams with permanent flow and streams with seasonal flow are already protected under federal law and regulated by EPA and the Army Corps. Under current law, the federal government has jurisdiction over "navigable waters of the United States." However, by removing the word "navigable" from the definition, the CWRA would expand federal regulatory control to unprecedented levels.

CFBF is urging its members to contact Senators to vote against the draconian proposals. Likewise, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council strongly oppose this legislation, not only because it infringes on private property rights, but also because it limits the state partnerships and flexibility that have made the current Clean Water Act so successful. The bill is posted on CFBF's Capwiz website at: <http://capwiz.com/cfbf/issues/bills/?bill=13336966>.

Reminder: Heat stress prevention seminar set for June 29 in Five Points

State Compensation Insurance Fund will host a free heat illness prevention seminar for employers and supervisors on Monday, June 29 in Five Points. Both English and Spanish sessions will be held beginning at 9 a.m. at the U.C. West Side Research and Extension Center, 17353 W. Oakland Ave. near Five Points.

Cal/OSHA will be out in-force this summer checking for compliance with the heat illness prevention regulations. Employers and their supervisors must be diligent in staying in compliance with the regulations. To register for the seminars, visit on-line at: www.scif.com and go to "seminars." For detailed information about the heat stress regulations, visit Fresno County Farm Bureau's Web site at www.fcfb.org, or call the office at (559) 237-0263.

Diesel Engine Rule 4702 permit application deadline is July 1

The new emission standards of Air District Rule 4702 for diesel internal combustion engines will kick-in Jan. 1, 2010, but the deadline to submit an Authority to Construct permit application is next Wednesday, July 1.

The rule applies to stationary and mobile irrigation pump engines of 50 to 750 horsepower. Many engine owners have already taken the first steps toward compliance by obtaining a Permit to Operate, as was required after Jan. 1, 2004. This next phase is designed to control or reduce exhaust emissions from engines and must be complied with whether or not the engine has a PTO from the Air District. To comply with Rule 4702, engine owners must submit either the ATC permit application or a Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration application by Oct. 1. The need for a PTO or PEER is determined by the total emissions from each farm.

For details, visit the Air District Web site at: www.valleyair.org/rules/currnrules/r4702.pdf; or call the Fresno office at (559) 230-5888.

July 1 is deadline for nominations for Annual Journalism Awards

The deadline to submit entries for the Fresno County Farm Bureau's 15th Annual Journalism Awards is on Wednesday, July 1. The annual awards will be presented at the annual Media Appreciation Night on July 30 at P-R Farms, 2917 E. Shepherd Ave. in Clovis, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

News articles or stories published or broadcast from June 30, 2008 to June 30, 2009 are eligible. Any full-time, part-time or free-lance journalist who covers agricultural-related topics may enter the competition, limited to two entries per individual reporter/editor/producer/team. First place winners from 2008 are ineligible for 2009 competition. Two awards are presented in the print media category, recognizing the best in general media publications and in agricultural trade publications. Awards also will be presented for the best in radio and television reporting and in photojournalism.

Contact the FCFB office at (559) 237-0263 or visit the Web site at: www.fcfb.org for a nomination form and information about the program.

Did you know?

With summer officially here and vacation and camping trips planned, thoughts – or daydreams— focus on fishing. The Old Farmer's Almanac reports the best days for fishing during 2009 are when the Moon is between new and full stages, most recently occurring now between June 22--July 7.

According to the Almanac, the best times to fish are when the fish are naturally most active. The Sun, Moon, tides, and weather all influence fish activity. For example, fish tend to feed more at sunrise and sunset. During a full Moon, tides are higher than average and fish tend to feed more.

Although most of us go fishing when we can get the time off, not because it is the best time, here's some pointers from the Almanac to help you land the big one!

Try fishing:

- One hour before and one hour after high tides, and one hour before and one hour after low tides. Inland, the times for high tides correspond with the times when the Moon is due south. Low tides are halfway between high tides.
- When the barometer is steady or on the rise. (But even during stormy periods, the fish aren't going to give up feeding. The smart fisherman will find just the right bait.)
- When the breeze is from a westerly quarter rather than from the north or east.
- When the water is still or rippled, rather than during a wind.

According to the Almanac, upcoming dates that may be the best for fishing are: July 21-Aug. 5; Aug. 20-Sept. 4; Sept. 18-Oct. 4; Oct. 18-Nov. 2; Nov. 16-Dec. 2; and Dec. 16-31.

Do you have some fishing tips you'd like to share? Email them to lizh@fcfb.org and we'll include them in an upcoming *Friday Follow-Up!*

Next Week's Calendar

June 29 FCFB Media Night Planning Committee meeting, noon, FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.

June 30 Retirement luncheon for Kearney Research Station's Fred Swanson, noon, U.C. Kearney Research Station, Parlier;
San Joaquin Political Academy Committee meeting, noon, Fresno Assoc. of Realtors

July 1 Water Rally, 11 a.m., Downtown Fresno

- July 2** CMAC Board meeting, 3:30 p.m., Dickey Park office, Downtown Fresno
July 3 Independence Day Holiday Observed. Office closed.

This Week's Calendar

- June 22** CA Farm Water Coalition Board of Directors' meeting
June 23 FCFB Coffee Talk, Riverdale;
Heat Stress Prevention seminars;
Fresno Fair Board of Directors' meeting
June 24 State Board of Food and Agriculture meeting in Mendota
June 25 July 1 water rally planning meeting, 5 p.m., FCFB
June 26 Fresno Ag Roundtable meeting, 7 a.m., Marie Calendar's Restaurant, Cedar and Shaw
avenues

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