



Fresno County Farm Bureau

1274 W. Hedges Ave.

Fresno, CA 93728

(559) 237-0263

Fax: (559) 237-3396

www.fcfb.org

info@fcfb.org

July 3, 2009

In This Issue:

Happy Fourth of July!

- Thousands rally and march in Downtown Fresno for water
- Pacific Legal Foundation gathers signatures at rally
- Federal and state water project pumps resume exports from Delta
- Fresno ends season with 69 percent of normal rainfall
- Economic stimulus conference scheduled for July 8 in Fresno
- Kearney Field Station's Swanson retired on June 29; ag industry thanks Swanson for leadership
- Did you know?

Thousands rally and march in Downtown Fresno for water

They came from Hanford, Merced, Visalia and even Santa Rosa. Farmers, farm workers, consumers, and self-proclaimed "patriots" gathered by the thousands on Wednesday in Downtown Fresno to show support for restoring a contract water supply to the west side and to preserve the Valley's ability to help feed the nation.

Led by CA Latino Water Coalition Chair Paul Rodriguez, an estimated 4,000-plus people gathered in front of City Hall to hear speaker-after-speaker make passionate pleas for placing jobs, economic stability, protection of rural communities, and domestic food production ahead of protecting a non-commercial, insignificant fish species.

"Who wouldn't want the San Joaquin Valley to be what God intended it to be—the breadbasket of the world," said Rodriguez. "We are all united in this [fight]. We can choose to set aside other differences on issues. This rally is about one thing only—water and the abundance of it in the Valley," he added, emphasizing the diversity of people and perspectives who came together to focus on the need for an adequate water supply. Rodriguez also expressed concern for out-of-work commercial fishermen, who share the same plight as unemployed farm employees. "We are on the same side; we are on your side [in this]. We're not your enemy," Rodriguez said, placing blame on environmentalist organizations for causing the differences among the food producing groups.

Rodriguez introduced more than 15 speakers who reiterated the need for restoring water to the Valley's west side. Among them were Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin; Fresno County Supervisors Phil Larson, Debbie Pochigian and Judy Case; Mendota Mayor Robert Silva; Orange Cove Mayor Victor Lopez; farmers and business representatives; and agricultural and water organization representatives.

FCFB President Dan Errotabere discussed the importance of preserving the Valley, only one of five Mediterranean growing regions in the world. "Without providing the tools we need, like water, we stand to lose this valuable region and the ability to feed ourselves. We then will have to look elsewhere for food. And, we will have to compete with the rest of the world," said Errotabere, citing a United Nations' report that estimates there will be a 25 percent shortage of food worldwide by 2050.

Errotabere also reminded rally participants that farmers are not the end user of this water. "The water we use on our farms produces food and fiber products for consumers. Along the way, this water generates jobs, regional economic activity and value-added products for consumers here and abroad. The simple fact is it takes water to grow our food – upwards of 900 gallons to produce an average breakfast, lunch and dinner for each person each day," he said.

Rally Participant Susan Marquez, of Santa Rosa, is a representative of the North Bay Patriots Project, a non-partisan U.S. Constitution support organization. She and several members came to Fresno to show support for the "people who feed us."

At the conclusion of the rally, thousands of supporters gathered on P Street to march through the downtown civic area carrying signs and chanting. Plans for additional rallies outside of the area are being discussed and organizers say that efforts will continue until a more reliable water supply for the Valley is secured.

Pacific Legal Foundation gathers signatures at rally

The Pacific Legal Foundation was in-force on Wednesday gathering signatures on an emergency "Save our Water" petition campaign, urging President Barack Obama and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to act to convene a special federal panel, nicknamed the "God Squad," to address California's water emergency caused by harsh federal environmental restrictions.

PLF's Bob Krauter said preliminary estimated show about 1,500 people signed the petition on Wednesday at the Rally. Additionally, signatures are being gathered on line, which is available at: www.pacificlegal.org.

The Endangered Species Committee is a panel of cabinet officials that can countermand Endangered Species Act restrictions that cause excessive destruction to jobs and the economy. A governor may formally petition for the convening of the Committee. PLF's "Save our Water" petition urges Governor Schwarzenegger to submit such a request, and urges President Obama to make sure his administration acts favorably on it.

Federal and state water project pumps resume exports from Delta

As originally expected, the state and federal water project resumed pumping on July 1 from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The movement of water is attributed to the change in water temperatures in the southern Delta that indicate the Delta Smelt no longer requires protective actions under the Biological Opinion, reports the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority.

The increased pumping couldn't come at a better time. Increased water demands from the recent heat spell caused the San Luis daily water draw to reach its limit over the weekend. The water level in the joint federal and state reservoir is very low. Total federal and state San Luis storage is projected to be above 250,000 acre-feet this year.

The cumulative pumping loss due to Delta Smelt Biological Opinion this spring is 619,335 acre-feet, reports the Authority. Of this, 233,000 acre-feet is federal Central Valley Project and 386,000 acre-feet is State Water Project water. This is water that could have been captured and stored at San Luis Reservoir.

Fresno ends season with 69 percent of normal rainfall

July 1 starts a new rainfall season, although rain for most growers during the summer harvest creates more harm than good! Fresno's rain season ended on June 30 with 69 percent of normal rainfall for the 2008-09 year, about 3.46 inches below normal. Fresno had 7.77 inches of rain from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009. Normal annual rainfall is 11.23 inches.

Statewide, water levels in reservoirs are about 16 percent below normal, said Elissa Lynn, senior meteorologist with the State Department of Water Resources. Water storage in the state's reservoirs is at 83 percent of normal by June 30.

Economic stimulus conference scheduled for July 8 in Fresno

The California Commission for Jobs and Economic Growth, in cooperation with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Recovery Task Force, is hosting a series of conferences to focus on transforming California's share of federal stimulus funding into new jobs. The Central Valley conference will be held on Wednesday, July 8, beginning at 8:45 a.m. at California State University, Fresno. Additional conferences will be held in the Bay Area and Southern California.

In the next two years, California will receive more than \$85 billion in federal stimulus funding to spur economic growth and create jobs. State, local and regional agencies are working hard to organize a clear process for effectively distributing the federal money and maximizing its potential for creating jobs. The conferences will bring together local, regional, state and federal experts from numerous industry sectors including transportation, education, broadband, workforce training and energy. The conferences will provide guidance on how local communities – including public agencies and private employers – can access some of the \$85 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding that has already begun flowing into the state's economy.

For registration information and costs, visit: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=185157>

Kearney Field Station's Swanson retired on June 29; ag industry thanks Swanson for leadership

Fred Swanson, director of the U.C. Kearney Research and Extension Center for the past 26 years, was recognized on Tuesday at his retirement luncheon for guiding the transformation of a quiet U.C. field station near Parlier into a world-class agricultural research facility.

Swanson grabbed on the vision of the late-U.C. Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources James Kendrick in 1983 to help launch Kearney Center into the noted agricultural research center it is today. Kearney now offers nearly all of the same research support tools for agricultural scientists in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley that they would find on campuses.

Raised on a family farm near Kingsburg, Swanson left home for college at U.C. Davis, where he earned a bachelor's degree in viticulture in 1965. He worked overseas and in northern California in agricultural production management and returned to Fresno County as a U.C. Cooperative Extension viticulture farm advisor for Fresno County.

In 1983, Swanson became the director at Kearney Center. During his tenure there, he expanded the available acreage for research projects; helped direct the construction of a two-story, state-of-the-art laboratory, office and meeting complex; helped develop a state-of-the-art postharvest laboratory research facility equipped with 18 temperature- and humidity-controlled chambers; and development of a 20,000-square-foot greenhouse complex, completed in 2003. He also has helped to lay the groundwork for development of a new research insectary in 2011, which will provide entomologists with light- and temperature-controlled chambers to raise a wide variety of insect colonies for research.

In addition to the physical improvement, Swanson was noted for developing the Ag Futures Internship Program for high school students. Several of the past participants were on-hand at the luncheon to recognize Swanson for starting the program that exposed young people to the career opportunities in agricultural research.

At the retirement luncheon, several co-workers, university and industry representative spoke of Swanson's accomplishments. Swanson thanked his colleagues for "giving me the opportunity to work with you." He said the successes were attributed to "everyone's effort to make the program work. I have met and worked with many really wonderful people," Swanson said. "I have been the lucky one."

Swanson and his wife Cheryl live in Kingsburg. An avid hunter and fisherman, Swanson already has plans for two fishing trips this year in Alaska, and several hunting trips.

Did you know?

This one is for real... The Drovers livestock news service reports the latest hair care craze in London looks to bulls to provide the key ingredient for soft, lustrous hair.

Hair styling Web site Curl Stylist reports that bull semen has become the most talked-about hair treatment in London. Touted as "Viagra for Hair," this 45-minute treatment ranges from \$90-\$138 and uses semen from Aberdeen Angus bulls.

Hari's, one of London's top salons, reportedly combines the semen with the root of the protein-rich plant katera. Stylists massage the protein-enriched potion into the client's hair after it has been shampooed. Then the client is put under heat so the treatment penetrates the hair.

"The final step is the blow out, which gives the hair an awful lot of body, as well as shine," the article states. Hari's owner, Hari Salem, is quoted in the article saying, "I have been searching for an organic product with a lot of protein because that is what hair is made of and that is what it lacks when it is dry. The semen is refrigerated before use and doesn't smell. It leaves your hair looking wonderfully soft and thick."

Only your hair-dresser knows for sure.

Next Week's Calendar

- July 8** Fresno Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee, noon, Chamber office
- July 9** Sheriff's Metal Recyclers Task Force meeting, 9 a.m., Brooks Ranch Restaurant
- July 10** Chamber Agriculture and Land Use Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office

This Week's Calendar

- June 29** FCFB Media Night Planning Committee meeting;
Rail and Port meeting
 - June 30** Retirement luncheon for Kearney Research Station's Fred Swanson;
San Joaquin Political Academy Committee meeting;
"Quality of Life" Valley Public Radio interview
 - July 1** Rally for Water
 - July 3** Independence Day Holiday Observed. Office closed.
-