



Fresno County Farm Bureau

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Fate of water legislation is still uncertain

With the California Legislature set to adjourn on Friday, lawmakers continue to work toward a comprehensive water package to address the state's long-term water issues.

Members of a Senate-Assembly conference committee on water have been meeting on-and-off this week to come-up with a package of bills. The Association of California Water Agencies reports three of the five bills in play include SB 458 (Wolk), which would create a Delta Conservancy and reconstitute the Delta Protection Commission; SB 229 (Pavley), which would require interim Delta actions and revise water use reporting and water rights enforcement; and AB 49 (Feuer-Huffman), which would require a 20 percent reduction in statewide urban per-capita water use by 2020.

ACWA said the proposed conference reports for two key pieces of the package – SB 12 (Simitian) and AB 39 (Huffman) – have not been released. SB 12 as previously proposed would create a Delta Stewardship Council and a Delta "watermaster." AB 39 as previously proposed would require development of a Delta plan. Specifics of a potential financing element also have yet to be released.

In addition to these efforts, Assemblywoman Anna Caballero and State Senator Dave Cogdill also have introduced comprehensive water bond legislation. As of *Friday Follow-Up's* deadline, there remains much uncertainty with what type of water bond legislative package will emerge. If appropriate action is not taken, the Governor is likely to call a special session to address water and other priorities.

Chamber Committee meeting to discuss water legislation at Sept. 18 meeting

The Fresno Chamber's Agriculture/Environment Committee will meet on Friday, Sept. 18 at 12:30 p.m. to discuss efforts to develop a comprehensive water bond. The meeting will be held at the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, Conference Room, 2331 Fresno St., downtown.

Scheduled speakers are Assemblywoman Anna Caballero, who has introduced AB 752, a comprehensive water bond to fund surface storage, drought relief projects, water conservation, groundwater cleanup, and Delta sustainability improvements, such as levee improvements, infrastructure protection and water

quality. Caballero's proposed bill also will designate funds for advanced water recycling, desalination, storm water solutions and water reuse. The Salinas assembly member serves as chair of Local Government Committee, and serves on the Accountability and Administrative Review, Budget Review Committee, Resources' Water Parks and Wildlife Select Committees and Renewable Energy Caucus. In addition, Ken Shockley, of the City of Fresno's Department of Public Utilities Solid Waste Management, will discuss the City's recycling and waste reduction efforts. Fresno is the number one recycling city in the nation, and recognizes its businesses and organizations that actively work to achieve the recycling and waste reduction goal of zero waste by 2025. Shockley will discuss the Mayor's Zero Waste and Business Recycling Awards program.

Fresno County Farm Bureau is the luncheon sponsor. To make a reservation, contact Dixie at the Chamber at (559) 495-4821 or email: dwilson@fresnochamber.com.

Top-level Commerce Department official to speak at Sept. 15 energy conference in Fresno

Jean Toal Eisen, the Deputy Director of Policy and Strategic Planning in the Office of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, will speak on U.S. initiatives to address climate variability and its impact on the business community at a water and energy conference on Sept. 15 in Fresno. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Downtown.

Toal Eisen will be the keynote luncheon speaker at "Water and Energy Conservation: U.S. Department of Commerce Services for Agribusiness" a one-day seminar designed to help agriculture-related businesses learn about Commerce Department resources for businesses contending with drought and related challenges. Toal Eisen is Secretary Locke's senior policy advisor on climate and sustainability issues. She joined the Commerce Department in April, after spending more than 13 years as a staffer in the U.S. Senate.

The conference is sponsored by the International Center for Water Technology at California State University, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and International Trade Administration. Agency and industry experts will be on hand to give updates on the latest programs and services for agribusiness.

The cost is \$30 per person, which includes lunch. To register and for a detailed agenda visit: www.californiawater.org.

Cattlemen's organization to honor members/friends on Saturday

The Fresno-Kings County Cattlemen's Association will recognize one of its own members and two long-time supporters at the annual CattleWomen scholarship fundraising dinner set for Saturday, Sept. 12 in Sanger. In addition, the Fresno-Kings CattleWomen will honor all past CattleWomen honorees at the event.

Tim Burk, a cattle rancher from Squaw Valley, will be honored as the 2009 Cattleman of the Year by the Fresno-Kings County Cattlemen, and the organization will present Fresno County Supervisors Phil Larson and Judy Case with the 2009 Best Friend of the Cattlemen award.

Burk is a fourth generation cattleman from the Squaw Valley area where his family still lives and works on the same 160-acre parcel his great grandfather homesteaded in 1871. Tim and his wife Jo have two sons, Ty and Jay, who have followed in their father's ranching footsteps.

The Cattlemen's Association also recognized Larson and Case for their lifelong commitments to San Joaquin Valley agriculture and the region's historic cattle ranching industry.

Tickets are still available for the annual fundraiser dinner at Annadale Gardens, 16265 E. Annadale Ave., near Sanger. The event begins at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For tickets, call (559) 787-2752.

Cotton Harvest Safety Training Workshop to be held Sept. 29

The annual Cotton Harvest Safety Training Workshop is set for Tuesday, Sept. 29. The annual safety program is directed to cotton harvest equipment operators, crews, ginners, and farm workers in conjunction with farm managers/supervisors and growers. All segments will be conducted in both English and Spanish.

The event will take place at the U.C. West Side Field Station on the southwest corner of Oakland and Lassen Ave., six miles south of Five Points. The free program will begin with registration and refreshments at 7:30 a.m., with presentations beginning at 8:15 a.m. The program concludes at noon with lunch. To RSVP for the event, contact the FCFB office at (559) 237-0263 or via email at info@fcfb.org.

Be on the watch to prevent metal thefts

At last week's FCFB Board of Director's meeting, Sheriff's Ag Crimes Task Force Lt. Robert Kandarian reported the price of scrap metal is going up, which typically means an increase in metal thefts.

Here are some tips from the CA Farm Bureau Federation to help reduce the risk of thefts and rural crimes:

- Make sure there is proper lighting around storage areas and buildings.
- Keep a record of who has keys to your locks.
- Order only the supplies you need or will use right away.
- Provide employees with a communication system so they can quickly report suspicious activity.
- Lock and remove keys from all company vehicles when they are not in use.
- Always know who is on your property.
- Properly fence property and storage areas using a tamper-resistant lock.
- Talk to neighbors about suspicious people and vehicles.
- Block the entrances and private roads that lead into orchards, vineyards and other fields.
- Make access to your property as difficult as possible to outsiders.
- Keep an accurate and up-to-date inventory of all equipment and major supplies so you know what you should have and what may be missing.
- Set up a system to routinely check your property for damage, vandalism and theft.
- Report any criminal or suspicious activity immediately.
- Make it a policy not to give combinations or keys to anyone who is not involved with your company.
- Ask all delivery personnel not to leave packages or supplies without first contacting a designated employee.

To report a crime to the Ag Crimes Task Force or to ask for assistance in crime prevention, call the unit at: (559) 898-0667.

Smile for the Week

Last October my wife bought a magnolia tree from the local nursery, but after only a few weeks the leaves shriveled. It appeared to be on its last legs. My wife took some leaf samples and marched into the nursery to demand an explanation.

"I know exactly what's wrong with your magnolia," said the manager.

"Good," said my wife. "What's it suffering from?"

"Autumn," he replied.

Source: Humor Jokes blog

Did you know?

Now is the time to start thinking about what to plant in that fall vegetable garden. Once these still-summer temperatures cool a bit, it will be time to begin planting. Leafy greens like lettuce, spinach, and kale grow best in the fall and can be planted mid-September for a fall and winter harvest. The Old Farmers' Almanac says to make sure the temperature is not likely to go above 80 degrees after you've planted the spinach or it won't germinate, although certain lettuce varieties can handle it. The kale will be sweeter if grown in the fall, especially if you leave it in the ground through a light frost, reports the Almanac.

Plant carrots and leeks late, as well. The carrots can stay in the ground well into December. Parsnips can actually stay in the ground all winter, and they taste better after several frosts. Another great fall root vegetable is the turnip, since it matures quickly (about two months) and is hardy enough to survive even in Siberia, reports the Almanac.

Calendar of Upcoming Events & Meetings

- Sept. 11** Fresno Chamber Agricultural and Land Use Committee, noon, Chamber office, details: (559) 495-4818
- Sept. 13** Ag Boosters Barbecue, 4 p.m., Rancho Vista del Rio (Borba Ranch), details: www.agonefoundation.org
- Sept. 16** Fresno Chamber Board of Directors' meeting, 3:15 p.m., Chamber office, downtown
- Sept. 17** Big Fresno Fair Education Program Committee meeting, noon, Fairgrounds;
Central Valley Water Awareness Committee meeting, 1:30 p.m., Fresno Flood Control District Office;
CMAC Board meeting; 3:30 p.m., Dickey Youth Center, downtown;
San Joaquin Political Academy class session, 5:30 p.m., Chamber office, downtown
- Sept. 18** Fresno Chamber Agriculture & Environment Committee, 12:30 p.m., Chamber office, downtown
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