



## Fresno County Farm Bureau

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### Feds sign MOU on Delta issues; Ask for Science Academy to review alternatives

At a public meeting in Washington D.C. on Wednesday, California Congressional representatives, water industry leaders and Obama Administration water and environmental officials met to discuss the State's ongoing water crisis.

At the meeting Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Chair Nancy Sutley of the White House Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) reported that six federal agencies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to reestablish federal leadership on California Bay-Delta issues, including active involvement in on-going state efforts, such as the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, to help provide an assured water supply while restoring the environmental integrity of the Bay-Delta.

Under the MOU, the Departments of the Interior, Commerce and Agriculture, CEQ, Environmental Protection Agency, and Army Corps of Engineers will form a newly established Federal Bay-Delta Leadership Committee. The Committee will coordinate with the State of California and interested stakeholders and develop by Dec. 15 a work plan of short-term actions. The plan may include:

- Developing an interagency science program to address key uncertainties in scientific information;
- Expediting habitat restoration projects that are ready to move forward;
- Taking an aggressive approach to addressing water quality threats;
- Advancing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change; and
- Coordinating processes for undertaking regulatory actions by federal agencies in the Bay-Delta including, but not limited to, the potential co-location of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service personnel.

Salazar and Sutley also reported Interior and Commerce Departments are asking the National Academy of Sciences to conduct additional scientific analysis of the California Bay Delta ecosystem and help identify whether there are scientifically defensible alternatives to current water management plans in California, according to an Interior Department news release. The water industry and others have taken legal action questioning the validity of the two biological opinions (bi-ops) on the ESA-listed Delta Smelt and salmon.

While reiterating confidence in the soundness of the science behind two bi-ops issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, Salazar and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke did agree to pursue additional, independent review by the Academy of key scientific issues associated with the Bay-Delta. The Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process is analyzing a large number of scientific issues, including the impact that a variety of stressors are having on the Bay-Delta. The Secretaries will be engaging with the State, stakeholders, and other parties who are interested in the BDCP to evaluate whether, if, and how a NAS review might assist in this effort.

Also, with regard to the bi-ops, the Academy will be asked to evaluate whether there may be alternative, scientifically sound approaches for protecting endangered species that have more limited water supply impacts. The Academy also may be invited to explore how the two bi-ops work together, for example by focusing on questions such as spring flows in dry seasons and fall flows in wet seasons. Given the need to move quickly on this subject, the Secretaries are willing to potentially explore getting an independent scientific opinion on this point through the Cal-Fed science panel.

Secretary Salazar also is urging Governor Schwarzenegger to convene a special session of the State Legislature to deal with the crisis at the State level.

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## **It's Fair Time!**

### **Caruthers Fair is underway**

The state's largest free-gate fair, the Caruthers District Fair, began its four-day run on Wednesday, Sept. 30, and will continue through Saturday, Oct. 3. The Fairgrounds are located at 13595 South Raider St., in Caruthers.

Since 1923, this unique community fair is run completely by volunteers and features several attractions, including a wide array of food booths prepared by community, church and volunteer organizations. There is not cost to enter the fair; it is primarily funded by a queen contest. Other attractions include live entertainment; commercial exhibits; a junior livestock show featuring FFA Chapters from Caruthers, Washington Union, Riverdale and Laton high schools and 4-H Clubs from American Union, Rural Route, and Country Club; home arts, horticulture and floriculture exhibits; a carnival and a parade on Saturday.

The 2009 queen contestants are Macci Faccinto, Celina Macias, Kori Peterson and Shantee' Whitford, with Taylor Trigueiro, serving as this year's crown bearer. FCFB Secretary-Treasurer Mark Sorensen currently serves as president of the Caruthers Fair Board. For times and other details, visit the Web site at: <http://www.caruthersfair.com/events.htm>.

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## **Fresno Fair opens on Wednesday, Oct. 7**

Beginning next Wednesday, the best of Fresno County agriculture will be on display at the Big Fresno Fair, which runs Oct. 7 – 18. The annual October tradition also is the central gathering place for family and friends to meet, whether it's at the live horse-racing meet, the junior livestock auction, to hear top name entertainment, or simply to enjoy that all-too-tasty cinnamon roll or corn dog.

The Fresno Fair offers one of the largest displays of agricultural products in the nation. Volunteers from local communities fill the Agricultural Building with the more than 350 commercial crops grown in the County. Participating community booths include Clovis, Coalinga, Easton, Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Laton, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger and Selma. In addition, on Saturday, Oct. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 17, 4-H and Future Farmers of America students will aim to take home the top prize and price for their

animals at auctions. The Oct. 10 auction will be held for 4-H and FFA students selling meat goats, dairy cows, heifers, chickens, turkeys and rabbits. On Oct. 17, the auction will be held for those students selling beef, sheep and swine. Animal purchases and top-off bids are encouraged to help support our agricultural youth. For details, contact the fair at: (559) 650-3247.

There are several discount ticket opportunities at this year's fair, including a special one on Thursday, Oct. 15. Fair-goers who bring three or more canned food items per person between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. will receive free admission into the Fair as part of the fair's Drought Relief Food Drive Food. The food will be donated to the Community Food Bank and The Salvation Army, who have partnered for relief support to assist areas affected by the water shortage on the County's west side.

In addition, Girl Scouts from Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties will help expand their membership by inviting a new recruit to join them in the Food Drive efforts by bringing three or more canned food items to enter the fair on Oct. 15 for free. Once inside the Fair, Girl Scouts and their recruits will complete an educational tour of exhibit buildings with an official Activity Sheet that once turned in will earn them a coveted "Fun Patch" for their Girl Scout sashes that will only be offered that day. Girl Scout officials will be on-site at the Fair to manage the campaign and will sign up new Girl Scout recruits, waiving the annual fee only on that day.

For fair hours and event schedules, visit the Web site at: [www.fresnofair.com](http://www.fresnofair.com)

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#### **Reminder: follow the rules when burning raisin trays**

As the raisin harvest winds down, growers are reminded to follow the San Joaquin Air District rules for the burning disposal of raisin trays. According to the Air District, growers must:

- Call in advance for permission to burn at 1-800-665-2876 or go on-line to: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).
- Attend to the burn at all times.
- Keep adequate clearance around burn area.
- Burn only in containers to avoid flying embers.
- Don't burn on windy days.
- Avoid burning near a highway or roadway.
- Don't cause a smoke nuisance.
- Don't let unburned trays fly around.

Some additional information:

- No burning is allowed if the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches 150. You can find AQI information at <http://valleyair.org> or in the Weather section of the newspaper. As a grower, you are responsible for checking this information.
  - For multiple sites burns, call the air district and let them know that you will be burning on multiple sites. You can receive a multi-site permit or you can use different permits for each site. The bottom line is that you have to let the Air District know, or you will be cited.
  - If you are granted permission to burn for six days, and something happens that causes you to take more than six days to get your trays burned, call the district and ask for your permit for that burn to be extended. If you go past your date and keep burning, you will most likely be cited.
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### **Citrus Advisory Committee is looking for members**

The CA Department of Food and Agriculture has six vacancies on the CA Citrus Advisory Committee, an advisory committee that makes recommendations to the state secretary of food and agriculture on matters pertaining to the citrus program, the annual budget and the necessary fees to provide adequate inspection services.

The department's citrus program maintains minimum maturity and quality standards in terms of size, color and sugar content. The vacancies are for two handler and four producer positions. Two producers must be engaged in production of Navel or Valencia oranges in the San Joaquin Valley, one producer must be engaged in the production of lemons, and one producer must be engaged in the production of Mandarin citrus. One of the two handler vacancies must be engaged in the handling of lemons in Ventura County.

The term of office for a committee member is two years. Interested individuals should send a letter of consideration and a letter of recommendation from a citrus producer, packer or handler to the Inspection and Compliance Branch, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. For additional information, contact Steve Patton at (916) 445-2180, extension 3512 or email: [spatton@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:spatton@cdfa.ca.gov).

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### **New Saturday opportunities to volunteer for Food Bank**

As a response to several requests, the Community Food Bank has scheduled a Saturday work day for volunteers who cannot help during the week. The first Saturday work day will be this Saturday, Oct. 3 from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. at the Food Bank's Distribution Center, 3403 E. Central Ave. (Central and Willow avenues) in Fresno.

Volunteers are needed to box food that will be distributed to rural residents who are severely impacted by the drought. Contact HandsOn Central California to sign up and to find out about future Saturday volunteer dates, by calling (559) 237-3101 or visit: [www.handsoncentralcal.org](http://www.handsoncentralcal.org).

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### **Local Pumpkin Patch accepting reservations for school tours**

The Harvest Acres Pumpkin Patch in Kerman is accepting reservations from schools, youth groups and families for field trips scheduled during October.

"A Day on Our Family Farm" provides students and teachers with the chance to pick a pumpkin grown on-site, participate on a hay ride and corn maze, visit with farm animals, and have lunch in the Picnic Pavilion. In addition, educational presentations by credentialed teachers are included. Featured attractions include "From Seed to Pie" educational presentation, Pick-your-own Pumpkin, "I Spy" Straw Bale Maze/Mini Corn Maze, Tractor-pulled Hay Ride, Interactive Songs and Poems Center, Farm Animals, and Teacher Packets with state-standards based curriculum (preschool - high school available), information on the farmer, teachers and the farm.

The Pumpkin Patch is located on Madera Ave. in Kerman and is open from Oct. 1 – 31. Field trips are scheduled Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; open to the public: Mon - Fri, 3 p.m. – 8 p.m., and on weekends: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

For cost and field trip reservations, contact Wendy Yribarren or Susie Hergenroeder at (559) 285-6122 or email at: [harvestacres@kermantel.net](mailto:harvestacres@kermantel.net). Visit its web site at: [www.harvestacrespumpkinpatch.com](http://www.harvestacrespumpkinpatch.com).

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## Quote for the Week

"Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind." *Theodore Roosevelt, the nation's 26<sup>th</sup> president who served from 1901-09.*

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## Smile for the week

*Don't you just love a good play-on-words? Here are some "groaners" to get your thinking, and hopefully, to create a chuckle or two!*

Energizer Bunny arrested; charged with battery.  
A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.  
My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it's just kiln time.  
Dijon vu: the same mustard as before.  
I fired my masseuse today. She just rubbed me the wrong way.  
Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.  
I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.  
I used to be a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the ax.  
A hangover is the wrath of grapes.  
A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.  
Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.  
A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.  
Without geometry, life is pointless.  
When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination.  
Reading whilst sunbathing makes you well-red.  
When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

*Source: Jokes Galore.com*

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events & Meetings

- Oct. 1** FCFB Meeting of Members/Board of Directors meeting, 6 p.m., FCFB office, RSVP: (559) 237-0263
  - Oct. 6** San Joaquin Valley Air District Citizens Advisory Committee, 10 a.m., Air District office
  - Oct. 7** Opening Ceremonies at Fresno Fair, 10 a.m., Fairgrounds
  - Oct 8.** Sheriff's Metal Recyclers Task Force, 9 a.m., Brooks Ranch restaurant;  
Fair Ed presentations, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Junior Exhibits Building, Fairgrounds
  - Oct. 9** Fair Ed presentations, 8:30 a.m. to noon, fairgrounds;  
Fresno Chamber Ag and Land Use Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office downtown
  - Oct. 12** FCFB's FAACT Class Session 1, 8 a.m., FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.
  - Oct. 14, 15 & 16** Fair Ed presentations, 8:30 a.m. to noon, fairgrounds
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