



February 1, 2019

Biotechnology

The State Board of Food and Agriculture will be meeting in Sacramento on February 5th at 10:00am to discuss several items related to biotechnology in food production. Speakers include Becky Mackelprang (Gene Editing and Sustainable Agriculture), Dr. Richard Michelmore (Gene Editing and Agricultural Production), John Lindbo (Seed Production), Non-GMO Project (Biotech and GMOs), and Dr. James Murray (Animal Agriculture and Genomics). Farm Bureau staff will be in attendance, but the Board meeting can be viewed online by accessing the webcast [here](#). *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, 916-446-4647 or troschen@cfbf.com.*

Budget

The Assembly Budget Committee met to discuss an overview of Governor Newsom's proposed 2019 Budget and a proposed expedited advancement of funds prior to the approval and initiation of the budget in July 1st related to emergency management. This proposal, AB 72 (Budget Committee) would provide the following funding upon approval of the Legislature:

- \$64.3 million to backfill lost property tax revenues incurred by counties that were impacted by the 2017 and 2018 wildfires;
 - This also includes funding for rebuilding well and septic systems impacted;
- \$50 million in onetime funding for emergency preparedness:
 - \$30 million to the Office of Planning and Research and Cal Volunteers to initiate an emergency management campaign, particularly targeting vulnerable populations;
 - \$20 million to the Office of Emergency Services to offer grants to local jurisdictions to improve their emergency planning and management;
- \$10 million to the state emergency phone network system;
- \$10 million to the State Water Resources Control Board to offer grants for disadvantaged communities that require emergent drinking water replacements and water system repairs;
- \$5 million for additional sheltering at California-Mexico borders in response to the immigration.

The Assembly Budget committee has approved this item forward for future review by the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. *Staff contact: Jim Houston at (916) 446-4647 or jhouston@cfbf.com.*

Cannabis

Several cannabis bills have been introduced that may be of interest to CFBF. Assemblymember Bonta (D-Alameda) has introduced [AB 286](#), a bill which would eliminate the cannabis cultivation tax and reduce the excise tax rate on commercial cannabis from 15% to 11% until June 1, 2022. Senator McGuire (D-Clarksburg) has introduced [SB 185](#) which, among other things, would allow for a trademark registration for cannabis, require CDFA, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, to establish a comparable organic standard and program for manufactured cannabis, and change the term of

“appellation” relative to cannabis to “appellation of origin.” This terminology is more in alignment with the existing standard for wine grapes. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, 916-446-4647 or troschen@cfbf.com.*

Labor

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health at the Department of Industrial Relations has released a new draft of a proposed indoor heat illness prevention standard for informal comment. Prior versions presented serious problems with definitions of indoor spaces (versus outdoor spaces), management of heat in indoor spaces and abatement of hazards associated with indoor heat and imposed expensive new procedures for employers of employees in covered indoor spaces. It appears the new draft has not addressed these problems. CFBF will offer informal comments on the draft reiterating our concerns about the agency’s approach to indoor heat illness and expects to comment on any regulatory proposal in the future. *Staff contact: Brian Little, 916-446-4647, blittle@cfbf.com.*

Land Use

Friday readers may remember Farm Bureau had originally opposed SB 1029 (Mike McGuire, D-Clarksburg), a bill which proposed to transition the holdings of the North Coast Railroad Authority (within Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity Counties) into a multi-modal rail-trail system. Farm Bureau advocated for additional planning and local community engagement and also reiterated that there are true incompatibilities between local landholders conducting agricultural operations with trails in some circumstances. On Thursday, January 31st, CFBF staff attended the inaugural meeting of the Great Redwood Trail Alliance, a group convened to initiate informal implementation of the provisions of SB 1029, in Ukiah. Farm Bureau will engage with the impacted County Farm Bureaus on developing a strategy to remain engaged in this planning and potential build out process. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, 916-446-4647 or troschen@cfbf.com.*