



March 20, 2015

Governor Brown and Legislative Leaders released a \$1 billion Emergency Drought Package this week. Many details are yet to be released; however Farm Bureau has received the following summary of the 2015 Drought Package.

- Over \$1 billion for drought relief and infrastructure projects to make the state's water infrastructure more resilient.
- Acceleration of \$267 million from Proposition 1 Water Bond funding for safe drinking water and water recycling from the Governor's January budget proposal.
- Acceleration of drought related expenditures from the Governor's January budget proposal augmented by \$31 million in targeted additional expenditures (\$132 million total), including efforts to implement the Water Action Plan and provide direct assistance to workers and communities impacted by drought.
- Of the \$132 million accelerated drought funding \$10 million in Cap and Trade funds will go to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for their State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET). An additional \$200,000 will go to CDFA for a study on the impacts of the drought on agriculture and agricultural communities.
- The additional \$31 million in new targeted expenditure items which were not included in the Governor's January budget proposal include the following:
  - \$17 million in additional funding to support emergency food aid to drought impacted communities.
  - \$4 million for emergency drinking water in disadvantaged communities.
  - \$5 million to the Department of Water Resources to provide emergency drinking water support for small communities, including addressing private wells.
  - \$1.4 million to the Department of Water Resources to increase advertising and public relations related to the Save Our Water campaign.
  - \$2.8 million to the Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife for additional modeling support and species tracking in the Delta and greater Central Valley to support efficient management of the state's water system.
  - \$1 million to address critical infrastructure deficiencies at remote fire stations that have run out of water.

- Acceleration of \$660 million from the Governor’s January budget proposal of Proposition 1e bond monies for flood protection in urban and rural areas to make the state’s infrastructure more resilient to climate change and flood events.

A measure that would make well construction reports, including altered, abandoned, or destroyed well reports (well logs) available to the public will be heard next week in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. This is the first policy committee hearing for [SB 20](#) (Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills) this session. However this measure has failed to pass the Legislature and be signed into law by the Governor in previous attempts in recent years. Well logs are already required to be submitted to the Department of Water Resources and are available to the appropriate public agencies. For example, groundwater management agencies already have access and utilize this information to better manage their groundwater locally. With the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) last year this bill is unnecessary and impedes local groundwater management agencies ability to implement the SGMA.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) held a hearing this week to receive public comment and consider a resolution amending and readopting a drought related emergency regulation authorizing curtailment of water diversions and Informational Orders. After a full day of public testimony the State Water Board amended and readopted an emergency regulation to assure compliance with water rights curtailment orders. The regulation requires water right holders to document their water right claims and report their most recent water use if complaints about their water rights are received, or if the State Water Board requests the information. Farm Bureau has actively engaged over the past year with State Water Board members and staff, the Legislature and the Administration on the impacts of their actions on agriculture and the economy. Additionally, the State Water Board readopted an emergency regulation that authorizes the curtailment of water diversions in Mill, Deer and Antelope creeks to protect salmon and steelhead populations during low flows in those creeks. Farm Bureau provided testimony at the hearing.

AB 67 was heard March 18 in the Assembly Labor & Employment Committee. This legislation by Assemblymember Lorena Gonzales (D-San Diego) will require all employers to pay employees twice the usual rate of compensation when working on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Despite criticisms raised that not all California workers celebrate either holiday, the Committee passed AB 67 on a party line 5-2 vote and referred it to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

The Farm Bureau is in support of SB 148 (Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg) that would establish the Career and Job Skills Education Act. This bill would authorize the governing board of a school district that operates any state-approved career technical education sequence of courses to apply to the Superintendent for a grant for the development and enhancement of high-quality career technical education programs in the school district. Farm Bureau believes that workforce development needs to begin in our public schools, particularly at the middle and secondary levels. SB 148 is intended to sustain the state's commitment to Career Technical Education by encouraging school districts to offer industry-relevant career preparatory coursework through a proven, incentive grant approach. Those districts who invest in these high-quality programs will be given a matching grant from the state to help these life-inspiring programs flourish throughout California.