



January 28, 2011

The State Water Resources Control Board's Delta Watermaster recently submitted his report, "The Reasonable Use Doctrine and Agricultural Water Use Efficiency". Presented as an informational item to the Water Board on January 19th, it was then given to the State Board of Food and Agriculture January 26th, and the Delta Stewardship Council January 27th. Work on the report, as well as its content, came as a surprise to many. The legislative intent of SBx7 1, that created the Delta Watermaster position, was to limit his authority to diversions in the Delta and for monitoring and enforcement of Water Board orders within the Delta.

Farm Bureau and many others provided oral and written testimony regarding concern that scarce resources were used for this purpose and should cause closer examination of the Delta Watermaster's job description and judgment. The Delta Watermaster acknowledged the report was his opinion without consulting with agricultural and agricultural water stakeholders. No action was taken by the Water Board.

AB 26 (Tim Donnelly, R-Claremont), cited as "The Secure Immigration Enforcement Act", would prohibit knowingly or intentionally employing California immigrants who are not legally present in the United States. Employers would be required to verify the eligibility of their employees for employment by use of the federal E-Verify system.

The bill would prohibit public officials and agencies from adopting a policy that limits or restricts the enforcement of federal immigration laws or that restricts the sharing of a person's immigration status. It would also encourage citizen reports of employment of illegal immigrants to the Attorney General, who would be required to direct investigations to local District Attorneys. Subsequently, the local District Attorney would investigate and, if he finds reason to do so, would petition the local superior court to find the employer has employed illegal immigrants. If the court makes this finding local jurisdictions are required to suspend any business licenses the employer may hold and order the employer to terminate the employment of any unauthorized immigrants.

To clarify an item from the last edition of the *Friday Review*, the governor's proposed reductions in General Fund support for the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) are \$15 million in 2011-12, plus an additional \$15 million beginning in fiscal year 2012-13. The governor also indicated that a consortium of industry representatives would be assembled to make recommendations on where the cuts should occur. The goal is to have recommendations by February 1.