



July 3, 2014

The legislature adjourns for their month-long summer recess on July 3rd. They reconvene on August 4th. There will be no Friday Reviews during the recess unless information emerges about water or other key issues that need to be reported.

[AB 2241](#) (Susan Eggman, D-Stockton) provides a financial incentive for counties to implement the solar-use easement provisions of the Williamson Act by allowing the counties to keep half of the required rescission fee or five percent. It was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee's Suspense File. The bill's fate will be determined by August 15th after the Appropriations Committees of both houses meet to decide which bills from the other house will move to their respective floors. Farm Bureau is the sponsor of AB 2241.

[SB 1353](#) (Jim Nielsen, R-Gerber) repeals the January 1, 2016 sunset date on the nine and 18-year Williamson Act contracts. The original measure, AB 1265 (Nielsen), was a Farm Bureau-sponsored measure to provide counties with an alternative to exiting the land conservation program through mass nonrenewals of their contracts. If the Legislature and the governor were to restore all or a significant portion of the state's Williamson Act subventions, the full benefits of the program and the full term of the contracts would automatically be restored. SB 1353 was unanimously approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Farm Bureau supports.

Efforts by the Assembly Leadership to put forward a measure modifying provisions of the \$11.14 billion Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act currently scheduled to go before California voters this November have again stalled. A bipartisan group in the Assembly Leadership will continue to work on a measure through the July recess that would reduce the size of the current water bond utilizing the existing framework, including continuously appropriated dollars for new water storage and necessary policy language to assure viable projects move forward.

As previously reported, the Governor has weighed into the water bond discussions telling Legislators to work towards a \$6 billion water bond with \$2 billion of the funds to be continuously appropriated for new water storage projects. Farm Bureau continues to advocate for \$3 billion dollars continuously appropriated for new water storage projects and for area of origin water rights protections.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) held a hearing to receive public comment and consider a resolution regarding drought related emergency regulations authorizing curtailment of water diversions. After two days of public testimony, the State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation to assure compliance with water rights curtailment orders in an expedited manner. Farm Bureau has actively engaged in recent months with State Water Board members and staff, the

Legislature and the Administration on the impacts of their actions on agriculture and the economy. Additionally, Farm Bureau provided written comments and testified at the hearing.

[AB 2082](#) (Brian Dahle, R-Bieber) authorizes the Board of Forestry to adopt stocking standards based on forestry characteristics rather than have a statewide restocking standard. Current law requires that harvested land be restocked at 300 trees per acre or 150 trees per acre if on low producing land (i.e. lands classified as Site IV or below). These standards were put in place in 1973 and have not been updated since. In the past 40 years restocking techniques have improved significantly creating much higher standards of tree survival. The current stocking standards can actually create fire risks by overstocking and creating dense forests. AB 2082 gives the BOF authorization to create stocking standards based on current conditions. It was approved on consent by the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate then approved it 35-0. Farm Bureau supports.