



March 9, 2018

Current conditions....

Activity at the Capitol is increasing as many of the “spot bills” take form. Additional incentive to get these bills fleshed out comes in the form of another impending deadline. March 22nd the Legislature adjourns for Spring Break.

Pollinators

The Senate Agriculture Committee held an informational hearing on Tuesday, March 6th to discuss the state of pollinator health. State representatives from the Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Pesticide Regulation, as well as the Tehama County Agricultural Commissioner, presented on apriary programs and opportunities for improvement. Panelists also included representatives from U.C. Davis, the CA Association of Pest Control Advisers, the Almond Alliance of CA, and the State Beekeepers Association. Priorities included improvement to Board Protection Stations, pest management, increasing foraging opportunities, reducing pesticide exposures and increasing genetic diversity. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen at troschen@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

Taxation

The Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee will be meeting on Monday, March 12th to hear several bills including AB 2008 (Salas, D-Bakersfield), which would ensure that farmers and ranchers are not taxed on money they receive through the Carl Moyer engine replacement program. While supportive of this concept, California Farm Bureau has requested amendments that would extend the tax credit to include grants received via the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program. The FARMER Program has \$135 million in state funds for distribution to agricultural operations to replace vehicles and equipment to reduce emissions. *Staff contact: Robert Spiegel at rspiegel@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

Budget Subcommittee – Assembly & Senate Resources and Transportation

Following two weeks of informational hearings in the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees, both houses will begin hearing budget proposal from various department executives. This coming week, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 and Senate Budget Subcommittee 2 will hear from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) regarding a proposal that would rededicate \$26 million from new tire fees to balance an ongoing structural deficit in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. This rededication of revenues will result in less funding for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Carl Moyer Program,

which provides grants through the state's 35 local air districts for deployment of engines, equipment, and emission-reduction technologies that are cleaner-than required for agricultural vehicle and equipment replacement projects. *Staff contact: Robert Spiegel at rspiegel@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*

Budget Subcommittee - Education

Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 on Education met on Thursday, March 8th to discuss the Governor's January 10th proposed budget expenditures for K-14 education and the role of career technical education (CTE). Commentary included support for more funding for CTE programs and greater data collection and accountability (with performance targets) to evaluate the success of implementation.

Prior to 2008, CTE was funded through Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROCPs) which received categorical block grants. In 2013-14, the State transitioned the mechanism for funding K-12 educational to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), thereby eliminating most stand-alone categorical funds, and rolling CTE funding into LCFF funding. To protect CTE program funding during the transition period to LCFF, in 2015-16, the Legislature and Governor established the short-term CTE Incentive Grant Program providing \$900 million to be expended over 3 years to develop and expand existing CTE programs. The CTE Incentive Grant Program is due to expire this year.

In response, the Governor proposes to fully fund the Local Control Funding Formula (2 years prior to the projected implementation date), and provide \$200 million in competitive grants available through the Strong Workforce Program for CTE. Under the Strong Workforce Program, administered by the Chancellor's Office of the Community Colleges, 40% of funding is available for local educational agencies to support K-12 CTE programs that align with regional consortia plans, and 60% of funding is available for community colleges. This would not result in a net loss of CTE funding for K-12 students. The Governor also proposes \$12 million to establish K-12 Workforce Pathway Coordinators in each community college districts to provide technical assistance and create partnerships with local industries to administer tailored CTE programs. Finally, the Governor's Budget proposes \$120 million to establish a new fully online community college to provide vocational training, career advancement opportunities, and credentialing for advanced manufacturing, among other career pathways.

Several bills, including [AB 1743](#) (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach), serve as an alternative to the Governor's Budget, to support CTE by providing \$500 million (rather than \$200 million) per year, for the next three years for CTE, with a dollar-for-dollar match provided by grant recipients. The Farm Bureau is actively involved with CTE-dependent industries to discuss adequate funding for CTE programs. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen at troschen@cfbf.com or (916) 446-4647.*