



September 7, 2018

### **Agricultural Education**

The Department of Food and Agriculture has announced it is currently accepting application for the 2018 CA Agriculture Special Interest License Plate grant program, also known as “CalAgPlate.” This program makes \$250,000 available to government agencies, agricultural education programs, and non-profits to promote ag education for K-12, post-secondary, and adult students. Grant applications are due October 5<sup>th</sup> and more information can be found [here](#). If you are interested in purchasing a special interest license plate to support ag education, you can order them [online](#) or visit your local DMV. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cfbf.com](mailto:troschen@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.*

### **Dairy**

The Department of Food and Agriculture has awarded \$21.6 million in grant funding to 40 alternative manure management projects that seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on California’s dairy and livestock operations. The list of approved projects can be found [here](#).

### **Livestock**

An animal health omnibus measure, [AB 3252](#) (Committee on Agriculture) has been signed by Governor Brown. The bill (1) clarifies the exemption for private veterinarians in relation to drawing and using animal blood in their own office, (2) repeals an outdated provision of Food and Agriculture Code requiring cremation or burial of an animal that has died of a contagious disease (current law dictates different standards for animal health), (3) specifies civil liability for breaking plant and animal quarantines applies to in-state importation and movement within the state, and (4) makes various changes to the Equine Medication Monitoring Program, including replacing nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs with “permissible substance” which includes a Departmental developed therapeutic medication list. *Staff contact: Taylor Roschen, [troschen@cfbf.com](mailto:troschen@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.*

### **Water**

The State Water Resources Control Board will consider proposed resolutions at their September 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to adopt emergency regulations revising the core regulatory fee schedules, including water quality fees for programs in the Waste Discharge Permit Fund and water rights fees in the Water Rights Fund.

Earlier this year, Water Board staff held stakeholder meetings to give fee payers an overview of budget cost drivers for the 2018-19 Waste Discharge Permit Fund and Water Rights Fund. The WDPF houses funds for eight programs, which include the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Storm Water, Waste Discharge Requirements (or General Orders), Land Disposal, 401 Certification, Confined Animal Facilities (CAF), Agricultural Lands (formerly called the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program) and Cannabis. Cannabis is kept structurally separate in the WDPF.

Staff's Water Rights Fund proposal is to increase the base Permit & License Annual Fee from \$150 to \$225, and the per acre-foot charge by 5.8%, increasing from \$0.069 per each acre-foot greater than 10 acre-feet to \$0.073 per each acre-foot greater than 10 acre-feet.

Staff also proposes to increase the caps on water right application and petition filing fees by 2.94% based on the consumer price index, increasing the water right application cap from \$518,899 to \$534,155, the change petition cap from \$6,518 to \$6,710, and the change petition involving a transfer of water cap from \$518,899 to \$534,155.

Additionally, staff recommend the following water rights fee changes for FY 2018-19:

- Temporary Permit for Underground Storage from High-Flow Events: increase the fee from \$100 plus \$1.00 per every 100 acre-feet of water diverted in excess of 10,000-acre feet to an initial fee of \$5,000 plus \$0.10 per acre-foot of diversion requested and a renewal fee of \$1,500 plus \$0.20 per acre-foot of actual flow diverted.
- Small Domestic Registrations (SDU): Maintain the \$250 registration fee while changing the renewal fee from \$100 every five years to an annual fee phased in at \$50 for FY 2018-19, \$75 for FY 2019-20, and \$100 for FY 2020-21. Provide a discount for qualified low-income residents if the SDU is to provide water for human consumption, cooking and sanitary purposes. A low-income resident is: (1) someone whose household income is 200 percent or less of federal poverty level (e.g. household 1 to 2: \$32,480); or (2) someone who is enrolled in a qualified public assistance program. The proposed discount would amount to 20 percent of the proposed \$100 fee and would be phased-in the following manner: \$40 fee (FY 2018-19); \$60 (FY 2019-20); \$80 (FY 2020-21) and every year thereafter.
- Livestock Pond Registration: Maintain the \$250 registration fee while changing the renewal fee from \$100 every five years to an annual fee phased in at \$50 for FY 2018-19, \$75 for FY 2019-20, and \$100 for FY 2020-21. Set the maximum fee for a single primary owner holding 5 or more registrations at \$250 (FY 2018-19), \$375 (FY 2019-20) and \$500 (FY 2020-21).
- Small Irrigation Use (AB 2121 Area/Non-Cannabis Commercial Crops): increase the fee from a \$250 registration fee/\$100 renewal fee every five years to \$750 registration fee/\$100 annual fee.
- Pending Application Annual Fee: increase base fee from \$150 to \$750 and the per acrefoot charge by 5.8 percent, increasing from \$0.069 per each acre-foot greater than 10 acre-feet to \$0.073 per each acre-foot greater than 10 acre-feet.

Staff is proposing the following fee schedule changes in the WDPF:

- Waste Discharge Requirement: Increase all WDR fee categories approximately 9.5 percent to partially make up a \$5.2 million structural deficit in the program budget, generating \$2.7 million in revenue and defer the balance for consideration until next fiscal year.
- Water Quality Certification: Increase all WQC fee categories approximately 9.2 percent to partially make up a \$1.9 million structural deficit in the program budget, generating \$967,000 in revenue and defer the balance for consideration until next fiscal year.
- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System: Increase all NPDES fee categories approximately 10 percent to partially make up a \$5.4 million structural deficit, generating \$2.7 million in revenue and defer the balance for consideration until next fiscal year.
- Confined Animal Facilities: Increase all CAF fee categories approximately 6.2 percent to partially make up a \$559,000 structural deficit, generating \$285,000 in revenue and defer the balance for consideration until next fiscal year.
- Agricultural (Ag) Lands: The Ag Lands Program budget for FY 2018-19 is \$7.8 million and projected revenue is \$6.7 million. To partially make up the \$1.2 million structural deficit staff

proposes the changes below to generate \$593,000 in revenue and defer the balance for consideration until next fiscal year.

- Increase fees by approximately 8.9% for dischargers belonging to a coalition responsible for coordinating water quality monitoring and best management practice development, training and implementation, and generally assists its members with complying with the WDRs and has been approved by the state board to manage fee collection. i.e. Central Valley Region.
- A new fee for dischargers that are members of a group that provides monitoring-only services and manages the fee collection for members but does not perform the other functions described above. The monitoring-only model is currently utilized only in the Central Coast Region and by only one group. The proposed fee for these dischargers is a \$100 base fee plus \$1.90 per acre, which is double the proposed per acre fee of \$0.95 for those members belonging to a group that performs all of the functions described above and also manages fee collection. The higher fee is required to cover costs for work performed by Regional Board staff that would typically be performed by a group.

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### **Wine**

Governor Brown has issued a proclamation declaring September 2018 as Wine Month. The text of the proclamation can be found [here](#).