

## Notes from the CEO

By John Krist

On April 26, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved revisions to the biological resources section of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAGs), which provide guidance to county staff members charged with evaluating discretionary-permit applications for projects that might adversely affect protected resources. These protected resources include clean air and water, wildlife habitat, plant and animal species of special concern, native vegetation, and agricultural resources such as water, soils and farmland.

The ISAGs are intended to help county staff determine the magnitude of a project's potential impacts, so they can decide what sort of environmental document – a full environmental review, a negative declaration or a mitigated negative declaration – must be conducted in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The ISAG document stirred considerable consternation among some in the agricultural community, and the Board of Supervisors extended the review, revision and adoption process to address issues raised by individuals and organizations.

As I have noted before in this space, Farm Bureau's directors, executive staff and legal counsel reviewed the biological resource section of the ISAGs, and found nothing sufficiently detrimental to our members' interests to warrant formal opposition. The reason for this is that almost none of the activities carried out by farmers and ranchers – from planting, cultivating

and harvesting crops, to constructing most types of barns and fences, and clearing new ground for crops or forage – requires a discretionary permit. All these activities are therefore outside the scope of CEQA, and the ISAGs do not apply to them.

That being said, the process raised questions about the manner in which the county goes about drafting or revising policies and ordinances with the potential to affect agricultural operations. Although affected stakeholders eventually did manage to secure numerous changes to the ISAG section that improved and clarified

the document's language, the process would have been much more productive and efficient had they been involved from the start. Instead, they were invited to submit comments only after Planning Division staff had spent many months developing the document internally. This is not the way other county departments and divisions have approached similar assignments. Other regulatory agencies also have embraced the stakeholder-driven approach.

In my testimony before the board during the April 26 hearing, I urged the county to adopt this more inclusive process as a matter of course when it contemplates similar actions in the future. For the benefit of those members who were unable to attend the April 26 board hearing, I'm reproducing those remarks here in full. They reflect the guidance of Farm Bureau's board, the policies and by-laws that govern our work, and many years of personal and institutional experience in dealing with state, federal and local regulatory agencies.

"Good afternoon, madam chair and members of the board. My name is John Krist, and I am the chief executive officer of Farm Bureau of Ventura County. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines for biological resources.

"Although I have little new to add to Farm Bureau's previous comments or position regarding this document, I do wish to take advantage of this opportunity to comment on some of the related policy issues that have arisen during the long development and review process. I made some of these points last July, the first of several times this matter has been before the board. I believe they bear repeating.

"First, I would remind the board of an elemental political fact: Although individual supervisors are elected primarily by the county's urban population, this board's regulatory authority over land use is restricted to the rural, unincorporated area. Nearly all the privately owned land that falls within your jurisdiction is owned by farmers and ranchers, or by those who lease it to them. Your decisions on land-use policy therefore have a direct effect on a disproportionately small number of men and women engaged in production agriculture.

"Farm Bureau does not oppose the adoption of regulatory policies involving these lands that address legitimate public concerns such as health and safety. We do oppose, however, any action that represents an effort by the general public to force these private landowners to provide public amenities such as scenic views and buffer zones, without compensation and without regard for the economic impact of these policies on farming and ranching operations. Many in the agricultural

*(continued on page 3)*

**Although affected stakeholders eventually [secured] ... numerous changes ... that improved and clarified the document's language, the process would have been much more productive and efficient had they been involved from the start.**

### What's Inside?

- Are you ready for the 2011 fire season?
- Be sure your workers have ID cards
- Carl Moyer grants
- Signs of Heat Illness
- Member Benefits

# Are you ready for the 2011 fire season?

By Bob Roper

The grasses are beginning to dry out and you're having to irrigate more now as the rain season is concluding, so you ask yourself if you're ready for the 2011 fire season. Ventura County has enjoyed relatively quiet fire seasons for the past three years, which causes a betting person to predict a change of activity. Besides looking at statistics, computer models are predicting heightened fire activity in Southern California for late 2011 due to

---

**We have created a new public education program called READY, SET, GO! for homeowners and we are now adapting this to the agricultural community.**

---

the changing La Niña-El Niño weather patterns.

People always ask me if the fire season will be bad or good, and I usually tell them that every year, we have all

the usual fire components minus the ignition factors. Generally in California, when early fires occur, they are considered topography- and/or fuel-driven, vs. the wind-driven wild-fires (Santa Anas) witnessed in the fall.

The topography- and/or fuel-driven fires can be more easily contained because of the fire suppression alternatives that can be employed and the large amount of fire resources that can be applied. During the Santa Ana-driven fires, firefighters are at the mercy of the wind duration and speed. It is also during these times that the fire embers travel greater distances and start secondary smoldering fires in receptive fuels that may go undetected for some time.

The Ventura County Fire Protection District protects most of the agricultural interests in the county. We have learned over time that protecting agricultural interests is more than just the trees; it is also the secondary labor and farm-supply interests. When the Fire District brings in CAL FIRE and other fire agencies, we identify on our written incident objectives that agricultural interests are a priority along with protecting structures. In fact, Ventura County is one of the few places in the state that identifies this priority.

To help address agricultural interests, the Fire District is seeking your help in suggesting ways we can help you. We have created a new public education program called READY, SET, GO! for homeowners and we are now adapting this to the agricultural community.

READY means to get your home and orchards prepared for the upcoming fire

season by creating defensible space (aka "weed abatement") and eliminating the areas where falling embers can find fuels that start those secondary fires. SET means to monitor the weather conditions, turn on strategic irrigation and ensure that your labor force is ready to help. GO! means to get your family or people with health issues evacuated now, and then prepare to defend your property. All three steps take time, and waiting for a fire to occur is too late!

I ask for your help as we enter this time of year because the Fire District will also be trying to balance the effects of the state's budget. We have surveyed fire departments across the state, and we will experience about a one-third loss in fire resources able to respond due to budget reductions. This will cause us to redefine our control objectives in relation to available resources, which

may mean that some fires may increase in size and incident objectives may have to be modified.

The computer models are indicating that we will all be busy in this fire season. I will answer those who ask "How busy?" at the end of the fire season, but I know that our ability to be successful lies with the partnership between the Fire District and each property owner and land manager. All must become part of the solution.

— Bob Roper is Ventura County fire chief. For more information about wildland fire safety, visit <http://fire.countyofventura.org/>. Farm and Ranch operators may contact Brendan Ripley at (805) 388-4589 or [Brendan.ripley@ventura.org](mailto:Brendan.ripley@ventura.org) to schedule a personalized site inspection.

## Be sure your workers have ID cards

For many years, Farm Bureau of Ventura County has worked with public-safety agencies to distribute agricultural ID cards. The purpose of these cards is to identify farm and ranch employees to firefighting personnel, California Highway Patrol officers, sheriff's deputies and other emergency works assigned to restrict public access to areas threatened by fires and other disasters.

As each fire season approaches, the Ventura County Fire Department works with these other agencies to make sure incident commanders and other personnel understand that possession of these cards means workers are authorized to pass road closure points for the purposes of tending to crops, protecting outbuildings and conducting other necessary agricultural activities.

The cards do not necessarily mean your workers will be able to enter your property if there is imminent danger. Front-line emergency personnel are empowered to use discretion when it comes to protecting emergency crews from unnecessary exposure to risk – which can be the result if civilians enter dangerous zones and then require rescue or protection – and minimizing harm to members of the public.

In those cases when the boundaries of the closure area include agricultural land not deemed at imminent risk, the cards should allow your employees access to your property.

The cards are available at the Farm Bureau office: 5156 McGrath St., Ventura.

<b>Ventura County Agriculture Employee ID</b>	
	Card Number <input type="text"/>
Employee Name <input type="text"/>	
City <input type="text"/>	
Address <input type="text"/>	
Agriculture Employer <input type="text"/>	

## Carl Moyer grants available

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) is now accepting applications for Carl Moyer Program grants. The grants will help heavy equipment owners upgrade to lower-polluting, more-efficient new equipment. Approximately \$2 million is available to fund projects in Ventura County this year.

Eligible projects include: 1) Repowering commercial fishing boats, farm tractors, and construction equipment with new lower-emission engines; and 2) Replacing farm tractors and construction equipment with new lower-emission equipment.

For information about repowering or electrifying agricultural water pumps, go to [www.vcapcd.org/grant\\_programs.htm#Agricultural\\_Assistance\\_Program](http://www.vcapcd.org/grant_programs.htm#Agricultural_Assistance_Program).

Funding will be reserved for projects as follows:

- If the total value of eligible grant applications received up to and including June 1 exceeds available funding, the applications received will be ranked by cost-effectiveness and the most cost-effective projects will be funded.

(continued on back page)

# Pay attention to signs of heat illness as temperatures rise

By Mike Klimenko

As temperatures creep up to the century mark and beyond in California, it is important that all agricultural employers re-emphasize to their employees the importance of protecting themselves from heat illness and at the same time keeping an eye on their co-workers for any signs of distress.

Working outdoors during the hot summer months puts special demands on the body's cooling system. Under certain conditions, a person's body may have trouble regulating its temperature. The harder a person works, the more heat his or her body needs to lose.

Prevention is the best course of action. Here are some tips to help prepare you and your employees for summer temperatures:

- Drink small amounts of water frequently. Be sure to avoid alcohol because it increases the loss of body fluids.
- Whenever possible, schedule hot jobs for cooler times of day or cooler seasons of the year.
- Take rest breaks in cool areas and add more workers to reduce the workload or shorten the workday.
- Gradually adapting to heat will reduce the severity of heat stress.
- Mechanize heavy jobs and when possible increase air movement with fans or coolers.
- Clothing can affect heat buildup, so it is recommended that loose, lightweight and light colored clothing be worn.

- Do not use salt tablets. Taking salt tablets can raise blood pressure, cause stomach ulcers and seriously affect workers with heart disease

Heat stroke occurs when the body has used up all of its water and salt and stops sweating as a result. As the body temperature rises, the person feels weaker and weaker, and may start acting confused or upset. As the situation becomes more dire, the victim may pass out or have convulsions. If heat stroke is suspected, it is imperative to call 911 immediately because this condition can kill a person quickly.

While waiting for the EMTs to arrive, there are things that can be done to aid the victim. Remove excess clothing from the victim, and fan and spray him or her with cool water. Offer sips of cool water if the person is conscious.

There have been significant changes to Cal/OSHA's Heat Illness Prevention Standard that can impact your operations. State Fund and Cal/OSHA will be conducting seminars for employers, supervisors, and trainers who are responsible for employee training to learn how Cal/OSHA interprets and enforces the revised heat illness standard. For more information, visit [www.statefundca.com/safety/seminars/SeminarDetails.aspx?SeminarID=186](http://www.statefundca.com/safety/seminars/SeminarDetails.aspx?SeminarID=186). — Mike Klimenko is Farm Bureau Group manager for State Compensation Insurance Fund. He may be contacted at [mnklimenko@scif.com](mailto:mnklimenko@scif.com).

## Notes from the CEO (cont'd from page 1)

community believe this is too often the case when the county adopts codes and ordinances, and this helps account for some of the intensity of the opposition the ISAGs have drawn from many in the agricultural community, including a number of my organization's members.

"Given the disproportionate effect of county regulatory actions on the farming and ranching community, I recommend that you embrace a new approach to developing or revising such policies in the future. I encourage you to capitalize on this community's long history of collaboration and innovation, by utilizing the same stakeholder-driven process that has characterized the development of numerous other regulations over the past decade. In each case, regulators laid out the problem that needed to be addressed, supplied substantiating evidence, and then worked to develop practical solutions together with those whose expertise and cooperation is essential to the success of such efforts. We have seen this approach work locally in the development of state and federal water-quality regulations. We have also seen this process at work in the development of the county's new grading standards.

"This is very different from allowing staff to work for months alone, or with hired consultants, to develop policies that stakeholders are merely invited to comment on after the fact, triggering months of subsequent argument and dispute. That process is almost guaranteed to produce unintended consequences and anger. Both have been on display during this process. And they will continue to characterize the county's regulatory activities as long as you continue to view farmers and ranchers as targets rather than partners."

— John Krist is chief executive officer of Farm Bureau of Ventura County. Contact him at [john@farmbureauvc.com](mailto:john@farmbureauvc.com).

## Member Benefits

### TICKETS & DISCOUNTS

Farm Bureau members qualify for discounts on admission to many of Southern California's most popular theme parks and other attractions. To take advantage of any of these special offers, drop by the Farm Bureau office at 5156 McGrath St. in Ventura. You can also place an order and pay by phone, and have the tickets mailed to you. For more information, contact Cissy Perez-Haas at (805) 289-0155. Have your membership number handy. We accept Visa and MasterCard.

**Aquarium of the Pacific** — Adult (Age 12+): \$18.95 (save \$6); Child (age 3-11): \$10.95 (save \$2). Valid through 12/31/11.

**California Adventure and Disneyland one-day Park Hopper** — Adult (age 10+): \$96 (save \$5); Child (age 3-9): \$88 (save \$3). Valid through 12/31/11.

**Cinemark Theatres** — Platinum ticket, valid any show time at all Cinemark & Century locations: \$8 (savings \$3.50). Additional premiums may be applied for specially priced films and or/events priced higher than normal box office. No expiration.

**Hurricane Harbor** — General use ticket (48"+) \$21.95 (savings \$11.04). Valid through Sept. 25, 2011. Child ticket (under 48") \$15.95 (savings \$9.04). Valid through Sept. 25, 2011

**Knott's Berry Farm** — Adult (12 yrs.+ ) \$31.95 (save \$25.04), Junior/Senior (age 3-11yrs.) (62 yrs.+ ) \$22.95 (save \$2.04). Valid through 12/31/11.

**Legoland** — General use ticket: \$55.95 (save \$13 adult, \$3 child) + 2nd day FREE. Resort Hopper General: \$65.95 (save \$23 adult, \$13 child). Valid through 12/31/11. Includes two visits to Legoland, including new Water Park when open, and two visits to Sea Life Aquarium.

**Magic Mountain** — General use ticket: Adult (48" + tall): \$27.95, (save \$32.04); Child (under 48" tall): \$18.95 (save \$16.04). Valid through 12/31/11.

**Raging Waters** — General use ticket (3+yrs.) \$23 (savings \$13.99). Valid through Sept. 11, 2011

**Regal Cinemas** — Unrestricted tickets \$8.25 (regularly \$9.50 Sun.-Thurs, \$10 Fri.-Sat). Good at Edwards, Regal, Signature and United Artists Theaters. No expiration.

**San Diego Sea World** — \$49.95 (Save \$20 per adult; Save \$10 per child) Adult /Child Ticket (3 yrs.+). Valid through 12/31/11.

**San Diego Safari Park** — (Formerly Wild Animal Park) Adult-African Tram Safari: \$33.95 (save \$6.05) (12yrs.+); Child-African Tram Safari: \$26.95 (save \$3.05) (3-11 yrs.). Africa Tram Safari includes admission, unlimited use of the Journey into Africa Tour, Conservation Carousel and all shows/exhibits. Valid through 01/31/12.

**San Diego Zoo** — Adult (age 12+): \$33.95 (save \$6.05). Child (age 3-11): \$26.95 (save \$3.05). Valid through 01/31/12.

**See's Candy** gift certificate — One-pound box \$13.45 (Save \$2.65). No expiration.

## Board of Directors

Leslie Leavens-Crowe, President\*  
Jonathan Pinkerton, First VP\*  
Andy Hooper, Second VP\*  
Fred Van Wingerden, Secretary\*  
Ed McFadden, Treasurer\*

David Borchard Phil McGrath  
Scott Deardorff Steve Onstot  
Gus Gunderson Chris Sayer  
Scott Kittich David Schwabauer  
Will Terry\*\*

Chief Executive Officer  
John Krist

\* Member, Executive Committee

\*\*Advisory member, YF&R chairman

### MISSION STATEMENT

We represent the broad and dynamic interests of the agricultural industry through our diverse membership. We serve members by delivering services, promoting policies, developing coalitions, and fostering community action that will ensure the long-term success of agriculture in Ventura County.

## FARM BUREAU OF VENTURA COUNTY

5156 McGrath St., Suite 102  
P.O. Box 3160  
Ventura, CA 93006  
Telephone 805-289-0155  
Fax 805-658-0295  
www.farmbureauvc.com

## Carl Moyer grants available *(continued from page 2)*

- If funding remains after June 1, applications received after that date will be processed and funded on a first-come-first-served basis until Nov. 15, 2011, or until all funds are expended, whichever comes first.
- If available funds are still remaining after Nov. 15, 2011, the \$8,000/ton cost-effectiveness cap will be lifted and the most cost-effective applications already received that were less attractive than \$8,000/ton of pollution reduced will be funded.

VCAPCD reserves discretion to give funding preference to any project application that is more cost-effective than \$8,000 per ton regardless of the date the application is received. VCAPCD reserves discretion to reject applications from any previous grantee who has failed to meet any condition in a grant contract.

VCAPCD staff is available to assist applicants with grant applications. Application forms may be downloaded at [www.vcapcd.org/grant\\_programs.htm#Carl\\_Moyer\\_Program](http://www.vcapcd.org/grant_programs.htm#Carl_Moyer_Program) or obtained by contacting Chris Frank, air quality engineer, at (805) 645-1409 or via email at [chrisf@vcapcd.org](mailto:chrisf@vcapcd.org).

### • PLATINUM MEMBERS

Beardsley & Son  
Al & Elaine Cavaletto  
Deardorff Family Farms  
Dullam Nursery  
Farm Credit West  
Fruit Growers Lab Inc.  
Gimlin & Udy Insurance Agency  
Leavens Ranches  
Limco Del Mar Ltd.  
Limoneira Company  
Rio Farms  
Saticoy Lemon Association  
Terry Farms Inc.  
Henry Vega Coastal Harvesting

### • DIAMOND MEMBERS

Ag Rx  
Randall Axell  
Bob Jones Ranch Inc.  
John Borchard Jr.  
John W. Borchard Ranches Inc.  
Boskovich Farm Inc.  
Chase Bros. Dairy

Crisalida Berry Farms LLC

Crop Production Services  
DeMartini Enterprises LLC  
Farmers Irrigation Company  
Friedrich Ranch  
Index Fresh  
Kimball Ranches El Hogar  
Larry Walker Associates  
Dorcas McFarlane TT  
Mission Produce  
Nunes Vegetables  
William Orcutt  
Oxnard Lemon Co.  
Oxnard Pest Control Assn.  
Pecht Ranch  
Don Petty Jr.  
Jonathan Pinkerton  
Rancho Limcado  
Travis Ag. Construction  
Fred Van Wingerden

### • GOLD SEAL MEMBERS

Ag Land Services  
Associates Insectary  
Barkley Ins. Agent Brokers  
Berylwood Tree Farm  
Brokaw Nursery Inc.  
William Burgett  
Calavo Growers  
Camulos Ranch  
CAPCA-Ventura County Chapter  
Lee Cole  
Crane Estate, Inc.  
Jack M. Dickenson  
Scott Dunbar Ranch and Land Broker  
Humberto Candelario  
Dufau Ranch Co.  
Estate of William Worthington  
Faria Family Ptnr. LTD/Rincon  
Friends Ranches Inc.  
Fruit Growers Supply Company  
Green Meadow Nursery  
R. Logan Hardison  
Ron Hertel

Hirashima Berry Farm  
J. D. McGrath Farms  
Tom K. Lindsay  
Luna Fertilizer Inc.  
Joseph Maulhardt Trust  
Messori Ranch  
Moon Mountain Farms LLC  
Naumann Land Development  
Newhall Land Farm Company  
W. J. Pinkerton Estate  
Quality Ag Inc.  
Rabobank  
F. Richardson  
Rio Grande Farms  
San Miguel Produce Inc.  
Santa Rosa Berry Farms LLC  
Seacoast Farms LLC  
Sine Qua Non  
Frank Staben  
Sunnyland Nursery  
Tierra Rejada Ranch LLC  
Trade & Service of CA  
Yu Ying Tsai  
Yamamoto Farms

## FARM BUREAU OF VENTURA COUNTY

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
Oxnard, CA

FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER published monthly by the Farm Bureau of Ventura County. Subscription is included in membership fee. Subscription to non-members is \$10 per year. (USPS 896-880)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Farm Bureau Newsletter  
5156 McGrath St.  
Ventura, CA 93003

 Printed on recycled paper.