

RMAC Bills of Interest 2015

The text and legislative analysis of the bills below can be found at:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

AB 1244 – Gray - Existing law authorizes any person to obtain a right to appropriate water for a small irrigation use upon registering the use with the State Water Resources Control Board and thereafter applying the water to reasonable and beneficial use with due diligence. Existing law provides that the board is not required to adopt general conditions applicable to appropriations for small irrigation use until the board determines that funds are available for that purpose. Existing law provides that the authority to register for small irrigation use is effective only to the extent that the board establishes the general conditions for the applicable category of small irrigation use. Existing law requires the board, prior to adopting other general conditions for small irrigation use, and no later than June 30, 2012, to adopt general conditions for small irrigation use for facilities used for frost protection in a prescribed area, unless the board determines that sufficient funds are not available for that purpose.

This bill would require the board to adopt general conditions, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and others, including, but not limited to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, for small irrigation use, unless the board determines that sufficient funds are not available for that purpose.

Introduced.

AB 761 – Levine - Existing law creates the Department of Conservation and imposes powers and duties on the department with regard to resource conservation.

This bill would declare that \$50,000,000 shall be available, upon appropriation, to the department to establish a grant program to fund projects that increase carbon sequestration in agricultural soils, improve soil water retention, and increase the resilience of working lands to climate change and drought. The bill would require the department, in coordination with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and the Department of Water Resources, to develop and adopt project solicitation and evaluation guidelines for the program, as specified.

Amended to clarify the grant program would fund voluntary projects

SB 367 – Wolk – Existing law, the Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995, requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish and oversee an environmental farming program to provide incentives to farmers whose practices promote the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and wildlife and their habitat.

This bill would require the environmental farming program provide low-interest loans, technical assistance, educational materials and outreach, or a combination of these things, instead of incentives, to farmers whose practices promote the well-being

of ecosystems, air quality, and wildlife and their habitat, and reduce on-farm greenhouse gas emissions or increase carbon storage in agricultural soils and woody biomass, or both. The bill would rename the panel the Environmental Farming Advisory Panel and revise the panel's membership and duties, as specified. The bill would require the State Air Resources Board, in consultation with the panel, to consider and recommend, as appropriate, the use of available tools to demonstrate and quantify greenhouse gas emissions reductions from a specified grant program.

The bill would provide that \$50,000,000 shall be made available to the department, upon appropriation, from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to support on-farm projects to demonstrate agricultural management practices and activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon storage in agricultural soils and woody biomass, as specified.

(2) This bill would require the Strategic Growth Council, no later than the 2015–16 fiscal year, to establish and administer a grant program to provide financial incentives for the adoption and use of land management practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon in soil and woody biomass, and provide other cobenefits on working agricultural operations, as specified.

Amended

AB 732 – Cooper - Existing law requires cattle to be inspected before being moved or transported under certain circumstances, including whenever cattle are sold. Existing law requires that inspection fees be paid at the point of inspection and that those fees be deposited into the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund.

This bill would exempt cattle that are being sold or whose ownership is being transferred from these inspection provisions if the individual or entity with a controlling interest in the cattle remains unchanged and if the cattle will not be moved ~~or transported as part of the sale or change in ownership of the cattle~~ out of state or out of a modified point-of-origin inspection area, and if the cattle are associated with either a registered brand or dairy exemption number.

Amended

AB 1247 – Irwin – Amended, no longer relevant

SB 27 – Hill - Existing law regulates the distribution and use of livestock drugs, as defined, by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture. Existing law also requires a person to obtain a license from the secretary to manufacture, sell, distribute, or store commercial feed, including commercial feed containing drugs.

This bill would prohibit the administration of medically important antimicrobial drugs, as defined, to livestock unless prescribed by a veterinarian pursuant to a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, as specified. The bill would make it unlawful to administer a

medically important antimicrobial drug to livestock solely to cause an increased rate of weight gain or improved feed efficiency. The bill would also require the Department of Food and Agriculture to develop a program to track the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in livestock and to track antibiotic-resistant bacteria and patterns of emerging resistance, and would also require the department, until March 1, 2020, to submit an annual report summarizing that data to the Legislature. The bill would also require the department to adopt regulations to promote the judicious use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in livestock, as specified.

Introduced.

SB 770 – Mendoza - Existing law regulates the manufacture, distribution, and labeling of commercial feed, and requires the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to enforce those provisions and the regulations adopted pursuant to those provisions. Existing law requires the secretary to establish, by regulation, good manufacturing practices, hazard analysis, and preventive control measures relating to commercial feed, including verification and validation activities for all commercial feed and additives, including medicated feed premixes and medicated feeds. Existing law defines “medicated feeds” as commercial feeds that contain drugs.

This bill would require the department to continue to be the primary regulatory agency over medicated feed, responsible for regulating medicated feed quality assurance and medicated feed safety, and enforcing any handling and inspecting requirements that are imposed on medicated feed suppliers. The bill would also vest with the department primary responsibility over medicated feed ingredients and the sale of medicated feed that is subject to veterinarian oversight.

Amended

AB 916 – O’Donnell - Existing law provides funding for various career technical education programs, including regional occupational centers and programs, specialized secondary programs, partnership academies, and agricultural career technical education programs.

This bill would appropriate the sum of \$1,170,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Education for the purposes of allocating funds in support of career technical education student organizations, as specified. The bill would also express various findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to career technical education.

Amended

AB 498 – Levine – Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to administer the Significant Natural Areas Program, and requires the department, among other things, to develop and maintain a spatial data system that identifies those areas in the state that are most essential for maintaining habitat connectivity, including wildlife

corridors and habitat linkages. Existing law requires the department, contingent upon the provision of certain funding, to investigate, study, and identify those areas in the state that are most essential as wildlife corridors and habitat linkages and prioritize vegetative data development in those areas. Existing law requires the department to seek input from representatives of other state agencies, local government, federal agencies, nongovernmental conservation organizations, landowners, agriculture, recreation, scientific entities, and industry in determining essential wildlife corridors and habitat linkages.

This bill would declare that it is the policy of the state and all state agencies, with regard to a project proposed in an area identified as a wildlife corridor, to encourage the project proponent to consult with the department, and, wherever feasible and practicable, take steps to protect or restore the functioning of the wildlife corridor through various means, as applicable.

Amended