

CFFA LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH USDA SECRETARY VILSACK



On August 5th, CFFA President, Ian LeMay, met with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to discuss current issues facing U.S. agriculture. The meeting was convened by Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) and hosted at Terranova Ranch in Helm, CA. Also in attendance were Congressman David Valadao (R-Hanford), California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, President/CEO Kathleen Nave of the **California Table Grape Commission**, and other allied agriculture associations.

Secretary Vilsack took a great deal of time to listen to comments from those in attendance and to thoroughly lay out USDA's actions on the issues raised, including the historic drought, infrastructure, immigration reform and the China tariff dispute. This was the Secretary's first visit to California during his tenure with the Biden Administration.



For questions regarding the tour, please contact Ian LeMay (ilemay@cafreshfruit.com).

STATE WATER BOARD ADOPTS REGULATION TO CURTAIL WATER DIVERSIONS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

On August 3rd, the State Water Resources Control Board unanimously approved an emergency regulation to curtail diversions within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed due to drought-induced water unavailability.

Of the 6,600 water rights holders in the Delta watershed, approximately 5,700 could be ordered to curtail diversions. This potential group of curtailed rights holders include all pre-1914 appropriative water rights in the San Joaquin River watershed and appropriative water rights established after 1883 in the Sacramento River watershed. Those with older water rights or riparian rights could be subject to curtailment or correlative reductions if conditions worsen.

"It is imperative that we move urgently to better manage the water we still have and prepare for the continuation of drought conditions," said Board Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel. "The Delta watershed is a resource shared by agriculture, urban areas, rural towns and fish and wildlife, among many others. This decision is not about prioritizing one group over the other, but about preserving the watershed for all, implementing our water rights priority system, and ensuring we manage through this drought, especially for critical health and safety needs."

"Drought and climate change have delivered a serious blow to California agriculture this year, making the board's curtailment action necessary," said Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Ernest Conant, Regional Director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the Central Valley Project, added, "Despite our best coordinated efforts, the projects continue to struggle to meet water temperatures needs, Delta salinity conditions, and water for public health and safety. With the extremely low inflow to our reservoirs, we are running out of reservoir storage and other tools to meet all the competing demands. We support the Board's efforts to preserve water for later this year and for next year."

Without curtailments, and if water diversions continue at their current pace, the following significant impacts are expected:

- **Excessive salinity:** Fresh water releases from upstream reservoirs are needed to repel saltwater intrusion from the San Francisco Bay during dry months. If stored water supplies are insufficient for releases, high salinity renders water in the Delta unusable for consumptive use for drinking water or irrigation.
- **Drinking water and farmland impacts:** Upstream reservoirs are drained below critical levels, with San Luis Reservoir, Lake Shasta, and Lake Oroville all at 19-31% of total capacity, endangering the drinking water supplies for 25 million Californians and the irrigation supplies for nearly 3 million acres of farmland, should drought continue into 2022.

Dry conditions in the Delta worsened this spring, when excessively above-average temperatures led to unprecedented losses of runoff to streams and reservoirs, and prompted water diverters below the reservoirs to withdraw their water earlier and in greater volumes than in previous critically dry years. This combination of events resulted in the loss of nearly 800,000 acre-feet of water.

Before the Board's action, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a drought state of emergency that now covers 50 of California's 58 counties. The governor's executive action on May 10th directed the Board to consider emergency regulations that authorize curtailments and allowed for it to require additional information from right holders to help predict future demand and ensure compliance.

Additionally, on March 22nd, the Board sent [letters](#) to all right holders in California informing them of dry conditions, encouraging planning and conservation, and requesting accurate and timely water use reporting. On June 15th, the Board mailed [notices](#) to approximately 4,300 post-1914 right holders in the Delta, urging them to stop diverting amid worsening hydrologic conditions, and warning another 2,300 claimants with more senior rights that continued drought could impact their future ability to divert. And on July 23rd, the Board [notified](#) senior right holders in the watershed that supply is insufficient for any diversions under some pre-1914 appropriative claims or to support full diversions by some riparian claims.

The emergency regulation must now be approved by the Office of Administrative Law before it becomes effective and curtailment orders can be issued, which is expected no sooner than August 16th. The emergency regulation would remain in effect for up to one year but could be repealed if hydrologic conditions improve.

Upon the Board's release of the draft emergency regulation on July 23rd, CFFA joined in a coalition letter with other statewide agricultural organizations seeking amendments to the draft proposal, including protection of previously stored water, accommodation for voluntary actions and water-sharing agreements, and flexibility in the order to respond to changing hydrologic conditions. CFFA also provided comments during the Board meeting on August 3rd. The Board accepted the coalition's amendments.

For more information, please contact Director of Government and Public Policy, Adam Borchard (aborchard@cafreshfruit.com).

CFFA HARVEST EVENT SET FOR NOVEMBER 12TH

California Fresh Fruit Association PAC would like to invite you to join us for our 42nd Annual Harvest Event, taking place from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, November 12th at the Vintage Press Restaurant (216 N. Willis, Visalia).

Only 100 numbers will be sold and those who are lucky enough to claim one will have the chance to win one of many great prizes, including the \$5,000 grand prize!

Ticket cost is \$300 and includes dinner for two and one Reverse Raffle Drawing number. Ticket cost for one Reverse Raffle Drawing number is \$200. All proceeds benefit the Association's political action committee, FruitPAC.

You may also register, sponsor, & pay for the harvest event online! Simply use the following link (<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=tcpx4zdab&oeidk=a07ei640quy6c01bc24>) to reserve your raffle number & pay with a credit card via PayPal (you do NOT need to have a PayPal account in order to use this option).

Sponsorship Opportunities: Our Associate Members may also use our online registration to become event sponsors! The cost of a Silver Sponsorship is \$1,000 and includes two dinners & one raffle number. The cost of a Gold Sponsorship is \$1,500 and includes four dinners & two raffle numbers.

Both Sponsorship levels will also receive promotional consideration before, during, & after the event, in the form of recognition in OnTarget, our Harvest Event program, Annual Report & more! We hope that you will support this very important event.

For more information, please contact Adam Borchard (aborchard@cafreshfruit.com) or Allyson Calderon (acalderon@cafreshfruit.com).

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UNITED FRESH TO HOST WASHINGTON CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER



The United Fresh Annual Washington Conference is being held September 20th to 22nd in Washington, D.C.

The annual event is an opportunity for the produce industry to come together to address the biggest issues affecting agriculture across the country.

For more information on the conference and to register, please visit (<https://www.unitedfresh.org/events-programs/the-washington-conference/>).

CENTER FOR LAND-BASED LEARNING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Center for Land-Based Learning is providing farmer apprentice program for potential employees on production agricultural operations.

Potential employees have the opportunity to train with farmers on their operations in combination with relevant coursework provided by the Center for Land-Based Learning. For more information, please see the attached for the informational flyer or visit (<https://landbasedlearning.org/apprentice-farmer-mentor>).

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2022 NUFFIELD INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Nuffield International has opened applications for 2022 scholarships, and farmers and agricultural professionals are strongly encouraged to apply.

This year, more than 10 scholarships are available to those typically between the ages of 25 and 45, directly engaged in the agriculture industry from countries including the USA, Japan, Chile, Germany, Argentina, Brazil and Zimbabwe.

Argentina and Germany are the latest countries to offer Nuffield International Scholarships and Nuffield International CEO Jodie Redcliffe says that it is a unique opportunity for individuals to develop their skills, gain knowledge and build capacity.

"Although unable to travel globally yet as a result of the COVID pandemic, recent Nuffield Scholars have still had access to a strong network of like-minded people through webinars and virtual Global Focus Programs, showcasing examples of innovation to assist these scholars gain knowledge and become leaders in their field", said Mrs. Redcliffe.

The global network through this expansive program provides scholars the chance to grow, implement operational changes at a business level and share new knowledge with other producers and the wider industry.

Applications for the 2022 program are now open so please share this through your networks and encourage applicants via: www.nuffieldinternational.org



NUFFIELD Farming Scholarships