

# Challenges of Our Regulatory Environment:

Emerging Issues of Importance to the Alfalfa Industry

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# State Regulatory Programs or Efforts

- Water
  - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
  - Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Changes (ILRP)
  - Nitrates Enforcement
  - Unimpaired Flows Proposal
  - Water Storage Investment Program Regulations- Water Bond
  - SB 88 – Diversion Reporting Requirements
  - Wotus - Federal

Marc Weiser in the Sacramento Bee, October 2016 regarding the unimpaired flows proposal.

"In just two of the counties directly affected by the water board's proposal – Merced and Stanislaus – farmers irrigated about 110,000 acres of alfalfa in 2015. Alfalfa is California's thirstiest crop, and much of it is exported to feed livestock in other countries."

"If these two counties simply stopped growing alfalfa, it could free up a half-million acre-feet of water annually. The water board estimates its proposed streamflow increases will cost water users about half this amount."

# Labor and Worker Safety

- Minimum Wage -SB 3, January 1, 2017 for large employers
- Ag Overtime – AB 1066, January 1, 2019 for Large Employers
- Night Work Rules
- Piece Rate - Labor Commission Decision, AB 1513
- Indoor Heat Illness – SB 1167 (Leyva)



**WORTH  
YOUR  
FIGHT**  
DON'T GO WITH THE FLOW

# Other Regulatory Areas

- State and Federal Rules on Antibiotics
- Pesticide Use Near Schools and Day Care Centers
- Short Lived Climate Change Regulatory Program – Dairies- SB 1383 (Lara)
- Fish and Game Code 1602 Application/Mesa Guidance Document
- Food Safety Management Act(federal)
- Animal Legal Defense Fund Petition to DWR/SWRCB claiming that using water for producing meat & dairy products is an unreasonable and wasteful use of water.

# Regulatory Proposals Defeated or Improved

-Basic Inspection of Truck Terminals – Exemptions for Pick-Ups –

AB 1960 (Lackey)

-Streamlining Organic Registration Process

-Groundwater Adjudication Authority Maintained in the Courts –

AB 1390 (Alejo)

-Prevention of New Bird Nest Take Regulations – Dept of Fish and Wildlife

-Piecemeal Rule Safe Harbor

# Reg. Improvements Continued

- Prevention of Expansion Of Medical Leave – SB 1166 (Jackson)
- Defeat of SB 1317 (Wolk) placing a moratorium on new wells in critical basins
- Flexibility in Reporting Diversions From Small Stockponds

## SGMA

- \*Local Control
- \* Softened undesirable results language
- \*2 years for governance, 5 years for plans and 20 year timeframe for sustainability
- \*Already Adjudicated basins eligible to opt out
- \* Protection of Groundwater and Surface Water Rights Language



- Federal Regulatory Relief Ops
  - Wotus
  - Food Safety Modernization Act
  - EPA restrictions on Atrazine and Chlorpyrifos
  - Affordable Care Act
  - Other

Thank you.

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