



Legislative Update August 2026

Water

AB 1881 (Ramos) State Lands: Informed Consent

Raises concerns about its impact on California's water supply as it would require tribal "informed consent" for certain projects that result in a physical change to state lands, while also creating a private right of action that could be used by tribes to challenge state agency decisions relating to land and water. The bill contains no clear timeline for obtaining consent or a process for resolving disagreements if consent is withheld.

Status: Passed the Assembly and pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Oppose

SB 601 (Allen) Water quality permits: waste discharge

Stalled in 2025 after significant opposition and negotiations have been ongoing. The bill would add new water quality permit requirements for dischargers and originally created a new category of waters under the highly litigated term "nexus waters" (non-navigable waters) while increasing penalties. Recently proposed amendments would have narrowed the scope of the bill and removed opposition. However, the bill author rejected those amendments and is instead proceeding with alternative language. Though the author's language removes references to "nexus waters," we cannot agree to many of the bill's other concepts, so we remain opposed.

Status: Approved in the Senate and awaiting consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position: Oppose

Labor

AB 2646 (Krell) Ag Wages

Implements an hourly wage of \$19.75 per hour for certain ag workers commencing on January 1, 2027, and annually adjusted. The bill language would cover H-2A workers and individuals working for the same employer as the H-2A workers and who are working in the same county as the H-2A workers.

Status: Passed the Assembly and pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Oppose

Pesticides

AB 1603 (Shultz) Pesticides Containing PFAS

Significantly amended bill no longer prevents the approval of new PFAS pesticides in California. The bill now requires DPR to indicate if a pesticide contains PFAS ingredients in the pesticide use reporting database on its website. Given that, Ag Council removed opposition to the bill.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and awaiting Senate Appropriations Committee consideration.

Position: Removed opposition and moved to a neutral position due to amendments.

Recycled Content

AB 2253 (Boerner) Environmental Marketing Claims

Bans the use of “mass balance” accounting, a proven, independently audited, and internationally standardized method used to track and verify recycled content across industrial sectors, including food and agriculture, which will reduce the amount of recycled content used in manufacturing. By eliminating mass balance, manufacturers will no longer be able to track and verify recycled content through blended production processes leading to a more expensive, less transparent and less effective recycling system while stacking the cards against the regulated community by preventing them from being able to meet the standards in the state’s packaging law.

Status: Passed the Assembly and under consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Oppose

Dairy

SB 58 (Padilla) Hydrogen Sulfide

Requires ARB, the Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Public Health, regional water quality control boards or other local or regional authorities, local environmental and public health agencies, and others to develop a response framework establishing best practices and guidance to address fugitive and natural sources of hydrogen sulfide gas.

Status: Passed the Senate and under consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position: Awaiting amendment language.

Air Quality

SB 1075 (Reyes) Permit impediments

Establishes new permit obstacles and lays the groundwork for frivolous California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lawsuits against commercial and industrial

projects in disadvantaged communities. This creates instability for job creation in California, among other economic challenges for growth.

Status: Passed the Senate and under consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position: Oppose

Pests, Disease & Invasive Species

AB 230 (Ransom) Pest control: Pierce's disease

Extends the operation of the Pierce's Disease Control Program indefinitely to combat Pierce's disease, its vectors and other designated pests and diseases. The bill changes the name of the program to the Winegrape Pest and Disease Prevention Board.

CDFA is required under the bill to hold at least one hearing by June 30, 2030, and at least one hearing every five years thereafter, to determine whether the Board should continue. A referendum may be called depending on the findings after any hearing, and though the bill extends the program indefinitely, the program could become inoperative if growers do not favorably pass a referendum for it to continue.

Status: Approved by Senate and pending a final vote in the Assembly.

Position: Support

AB 2143 (Irwin) – Noxious Weeds

Addresses an enforcement gap relating to the online sale of invasive and noxious weeds by third party sellers, by prohibiting an online marketplace from facilitating the sale or shipment of a noxious weed for delivery in the state and requires CDFA to enforce this prohibition. The bill sets penalties for violations by an online marketplace between \$25,000 and \$75,000.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and awaiting consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

Antitrust

AB 1776 (Aguilar-Curry) Cartwright Act

Adopts the California Law Revision Commission's recommended updates to the Cartwright Act to address single firm anticompetitive conduct. The measure upends a century of antitrust case law and creates legal liability for California businesses to be sued for common business practices, such as setting prices.

Status: Passed the Assembly and pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Oppose

Food Ingredients & Ultra-processed Food (UPF)

AB 2244 (Gabriel) UPF Certification & Seal

By June 2028, requires CDPH to accredit certification agents that can certify food and beverage products as "Non-Ultraprocessed Certified." Mandates the creation of

a standardized “Non-Ultraprocessed Certified” seal. The seal can be voluntarily used by food and beverage producers, and the bill does not require use of the seal by food manufacturers.

Status: Passed Assembly and pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: Oppose

Technology & Pricing Data

SB 295 (Hurtado) Pricing algorithms

Broadly bans the ability of businesses to use data generated via pricing algorithms and prohibits the use of data helping agricultural producers, processors and countless businesses negotiate contracts and determine prices. Such data is essential to making business decisions, and pricing algorithms are used to help many in agriculture stay competitive in the market and ensure farmers receive a fair price. The bill creates ambiguity and liability concerns with severe penalties for violations.

Status: No longer moving forward.

Position: Ag Council and others in ag offered amendments to remove opposition. However, the author chose not to proceed with the bill.

****Please note, this is an abbreviated list of bills and is not a comprehensive list of all legislation pending in the State Legislature that affects food and agriculture.*