



Legislative Update Final Bill Decisions by Governor Newsom September 30, 2026

Budget

The end-of-session budget trailer bills signed into law included funding for the following programs:

- \$10 million for the FARMER program – ag equipment replacement grants
- \$10 million for emergency detection, investigation or eradication to address the Glassy-winged sharpshooter
- \$25 million for the Healthy Soils Program
- \$64 million for the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program for groundwater sustainability projects
- \$171 million for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (known as SAFER) ensuring safe, clean and affordable water for human consumption
- Approximately \$5 million for the Food Production Investment Program (FPIP) derived from previously unallocated funds from prior budget years

Water

AB 1881 (Ramos) State Lands: Informed Consent – Vetoed

Requires 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. AB 1881 could prevent construction or infrastructure improvements for state owned water facilities and impact California’s water supply by providing veto power to tribes.

Position: Opposed

Labor

AB 2646 (Krell) Ag Wages – Signed into law

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.

Position: Opposed

Pesticides

AB 1603 (Shultz) Pesticides Containing PFAS – Signed into law

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.

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

Recycled Content

AB 2253 (Boerner) Environmental Marketing Claims - Vetoed

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.

Position: Opposed

Warehouses & Nonresidential Properties

AB 817 (Gonzalez) Cold storage warehouses – Signed into law

Prohibits a city or county from approving a building permit for a cold storage facility of 20,000 square feet or more unless the owner or operator establishes a contingency fund of up to \$20 million to be determined by the city or county. This bill is in response to the warehouse fire in Boyle Heights that started in June and led to serious air quality and odor issues. AB 817 applies to Boyle Heights until July 1, 2028, and then applies statewide.

Position: Opposed

SB 716 (Durazo) Ordinance violations: nonresidential structures – Signed into law

Increases fines for violations of city or county health and safety ordinances relating to nonresidential structures of 20,000 square feet or more. Fines begin at \$1,000 for the first violation, \$2,000 for the second and climb to \$5,000 for each additional violation of the same ordinance within five years of the first violation. Fine amounts can be increased by a factor of 10, up to \$50,000 per violation, for violations during a state of emergency.

Position: Opposed

Air Quality

SB 1075 (Reyes) Permit impediments – Held in Committee

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.

Position: Opposed

Ultra-processed Food (UPF)

AB 2244 (Gabriel) UPF Certification & Seal – Signed into law

Mandates the creation of a standardized “Non-Ultraprocessed Certified” seal for food and beverage products and a process to accredit certification agents by June 2028. The seal can be voluntarily used by food and beverage producers, and the bill does not require use of the seal.

At the end of the legislative session, the bill added a definition of ultraprocessed food (UPF) that is inconsistent with existing state statute. Under existing law, a food must have an additive PLUS be high in saturated fat, sugar or sodium to be UPF. Under AB 2244’s UPF definition, a food only needs to have an additive to be considered UPF and the food would be unable to receive the non-ultra processed certification seal.

Position: Opposed

Pests, Disease & Invasive Species

AB 230 (Ransom) Pest control: Pierce’s disease – Signed into law

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.

Position: Support

AB 2143 (Irwin) Noxious Weeds – Signed into law

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.

Position: Support

Antitrust

AB 1776 (Aguiar-Curry) Cartwright Act – Signed into law

Adopts certain recommendations from the California Law Revision Commission to update the Cartwright Act to address single firm anticompetitive conduct. Of note, the private right of action was removed in an amendment. The bill still contains a “substantial market power” provision, which creates legal liability for California businesses to be sued for common business practices, such as setting prices.

Position: Opposed

Technology & Pricing Data

SB 295 (Hurtado) Pricing algorithms – Did not move forward

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. 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.

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

****Please note, this is an abbreviated list of bills and is not comprehensive of all legislation affecting food and agriculture in 2026.*