

## **San Joaquin air board opening**

Sacramento Bee and Merced Sun-Star, Monday, June 14, 2010

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is seeking new members for its environmental justice committee.

The panel helps ensure that the district's policies do not cause undue harm to low-income and ethnic residents. The opening is for an ethnic small-business owner.

Applications also are being accepted for seats that could come open later this year.

The deadline is June 25. For more information, call 557-6400.

## **Democrats split over regulations bill**

**Bill would require third-party reviews when requested by members of public**

By Wes Sander

Capital Press Ag Weekly, Thursday, June 10, 2009

SACRAMENTO -- The state Assembly passed a bill that could slow implementation of agency rules, despite an unusual Democratic split over lawmaking protocol.

The bill, AB 2529, started out requiring state audits of new regulations. Amendments later singled out four agencies -- the Air Resources Board, Energy Commission, Department of Fish and Game and Department of Housing and Community Development -- requiring that they complete an economic-impact analysis of major new regulations.

Some Democratic lawmakers said the bill's late amendments should have been approved by a policy committee before the Appropriations committee sent it to the Assembly floor. Appropriations is chaired by the bill's author, Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes, D-Sylmar.

As currently written, the bill further requires an outside peer review of the analysis if any member of the public requests it. The requesting party would pay for the review.

The bill passed the Assembly on a 44-18 vote, with Democrats split. Assembly Speaker John Pérez of Los Angeles was among those in support.

The proposed law would last through 2016. Supporters include the California League of Food Processors, Western Growers, California Forestry Association and California Grocers Association.

The Union of Concerned Scientists argues the bill would in some cases duplicate reviews that are already performed, and would allow industry to slow implementation of the state's landmark global warming law, AB 32.

Fuentes argues that a third-party review would help ensure that regulations don't result in unexpected economic impacts.

The bill is now in the Senate.

## **Members of EPA ag advisory panel announced**

By Dave Wilkins

Capital Press Ag Weekly, Friday, June 11, 2010

Five people from the West are among new members of a committee that will advise the EPA on issues related to agriculture and rural communities.

The new appointees represent a wide range of interests including a major food processor, California specialty crop growers, an Idaho Indian tribe, a conservation district in Western Washington and a county in Montana.

The EPA's newly named Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Committee includes:

\* Steven S. Balling, director of agricultural and analytical services for Del Monte Foods in Walnut Creek, Calif.

\* Lori A. Berger, executive director of the California Specialty Crops Council, Tulare, Calif.

\* George J. Boggs, executive director, Whatcom Conservation District, Lynden, Wash.

\* Bill Snapp, agricultural resources manager for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Fort Hall, Idaho.

\* Peggy S. Beltrone, Cascade County Commissioner, Great Falls, Mont.

The five are among 29 new committee appointees who will serve 2010-12.

Committee members will provide insight on topics such as non-point source water pollution and agricultural air quality issues.

Boggs said he's looking forward to providing some input as well as learning from other members of the committee.

Whatcom County is one of the Washington state's leading dairy counties. Local producers have been participating in a state nutrient management program since 1998 and have earned kudos for helping with a basin-wide project to reduce fecal coli form levels in the lower Nooksack River Basin.

Whatcom County farmers installed fences to exclude animals from creeks and began applying manure only when fields could absorb it. Landowners also installed hedgerows along watercourses and more than 400 miles of filter strips to protect against overspray and runoff of manure.

It's an example of how farmers can be proactive, rather than waiting for the "hammer" of regulation to force them into action, Boggs said.

It's the kind of advice he plans to share with the advisory committee and the EPA.

"We can solve these things working together," he said. "Regulatory responses are sometimes counter productive."

Boggs may also have some input regarding renewable energy.

Some Whatcom County dairies with anaerobic digesters are starting to explore the possibility of selling compressed methane gas as a transportation fuel, he said.

EPA regulations can affect the viability of such projects, he said.

Newly appointed members of an independent committee will advise the Environmental Protection Agency on a wide range of issues affecting agriculture and rural communities.