

INSIDE



DISTRICT 5
CANDIDATES PG. 5

SGMA Update

By Dusty Ference

On November 8, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) held a public information hearing in Hanford, intended to inform the public why SWRCB staff have recommended the Tulare Lake Subbasin be placed on probation for deficiencies in the subbasins Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Since then, local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) have been working to update the subbasins GSP in hopes of satisfying the SGMA and addressing the SWRCB's concerns.

The KCFB staff attended several GSA meetings in December and discovered that the GSAs are collectively working towards releasing an updated GSP in February. Initially, the GSAs in the subbasin agreed to create a single plan for the subbasin, and all five GSAs must agree to all updates this time, as they did for the first plan. The plan's updates must be available for public comment, and comments shall be accepted for 30 days. Once agreed to by the GSAs and public comments are considered, the updated plan will be submitted to the SWRCB for consideration.

Under ideal circumstances, the SWRCB staff would examine the revised GSP before the probationary hearing scheduled for April 16,



San Joaquin Valley Tulare Lake Subbasin Map
waterboards.ca.gov

2024. If the new plan meets the legal requirements, it would be presented to the SWRCB for final approval. However, during the November 8, 2023 public meeting, the SWRCB staff informed the attendees that they would require at least four months to review the document. Recent letters to the SWRCB have urged them to postpone the probationary hearing to allow for enough time for staff to review the updated plan. It appears those appeals were disregarded at the SWRCB. During their December 19, 2023, Board Meeting, the SWRCB edited its probation hearing schedule but left the Tulare Lake Sub-basin

"SGMA" continued on page 3

Legislation to take effect in 2024

By Kahn, Soares and Conway, LLP

A new year means new legislation for California businesses to prepare for. Below are a few noteworthy laws and regulations taking effect on January 1, 2024:

LABOR LAWS:

Employee Drug Use

As originally passed in 2022, starting January 1, 2024, **AB 2188** (Quirk) makes it unlawful for an employer to discriminate against a person in hiring, termination or other condition of employment, based on an employee's use of cannabis off the job based on a drug screening test that has found non-psychoactive cannabis metabolites in their system.

Continuing in this vein, **SB 700** (Bradford), passed in 2023, expands California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employers from requesting information from an applicant for hire about their prior cannabis use. It would also specify that an employer cannot use an applicant's criminal history related to cannabis use for hiring, termination or any other term of

employment.

These laws do not permit an employee to possess, to be impaired by, or to use cannabis on the job, or affect the rights or obligations of an employer to maintain a drug and alcohol free workplace.

Employee Safety

SB 553 (Cortese, 2023), effective July 1, 2024, requires employers to implement a Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP) that contains specific information and:

- Record information in a violent incident log for every workplace violence incident.
- Provide training to employees on WVPP.
- Provide additional training when a new or previously unrecognized workplace violence hazard has been identified and when changes are made to the plan.
- Require records of workplace violence hazard identification, evaluation, correction and training, violent incident logs and workplace incident investigation to be maintained, and certain records to be made available to the division, employees, and employee representatives.

Effective January 1, 2025, SB 553 also authorizes a collective

"Legislation" continued on page 7





Purpose

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Ensure that every farmer has the right to farm and protect their heritage

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Happy New Year!

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

As we bid farewell to 2023, it's time to reflect on the resilience we've shown in the face of adversity. KCFB, with its unwavering spirit, not only weathered the storm but also achieved significant milestones. We successfully hosted our annual meeting, launched innovative programs to combat flooding, and spearheaded the Excelsior-Kings River RCDs' initiative to secure grant funding for on-farm conservation in the county. These achievements are a testament to our collective strength and determination, and I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together.

The past year brought with it a series of unforeseen challenges, the likes of which the agriculture industry in and around Kings County had never encountered before. The interplay of natural events and political decisions reshaped our industry in ways we could not have anticipated.

These challenges have transformed how our farms, ranches, and dairies feed the world and will continue to do so. As we look ahead to 2024, we know that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) will be one of the significant hurdles we'll face.

As we prepare for 2024, let's focus on the positive. The Valley is expected to have a good rainy season, and KCFB will add additional staff early in the year. Our Board of Directors continues to strategize for better advocacy for our members, and we stand ready to face whatever may come our way. KCFB's Board of Directors and staff are proud to work for the betterment of your farm, ranch, or dairy, and thank you for trusting us to do so. As you feed the world, we work to protect, preserve, and enhance agriculture in Kings County, ensuring every farmer has the right to farm and protect their heritage.

GSA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

Greater Kaweah GSA
Date: Second Monday
Time: 12:00pm
Location:
2975 N. Farmersville
Blvd. Farmersville, CA

Southfork Kings GSA
Date: Third Wednesday
Time: 5:30pm
Location:
429 C St.
Lemoore, CA

El Rico GSA
Date: Second Tuesday
Time: 1:00pm
Location:
1001 Chase Ave.
Corcoran, CA

Tri-County Water Authority
Date: First Thursday
Time: 1:00pm
Location:
944 Whitley Ave.
Corcoran, CA

Mid Kings GSA
Date: Second Tuesday
Time: 1:00pm
Location:
200 North Campus Dr.
Hanford, CA

Southwest Kings GSA
Date: First Friday
Time: 1:00pm
Location:
944 Whitley Ave.
Corcoran, CA

Welcome 2024!

By Breanna Larman



Breanna Larman

*Why should you put your new calendar in the freezer?
To start the year off in a cool way.*

As excited as I am for all the new experiences to come this year, I am just as excited about the returning events we have planned. New for me this year, is attending GSA meetings and gaining more knowledge on the current water issues our members face. I am excited for the growth opportunity this brings, and the understanding of our members needs on a different level. Despite my new tasks focused on GSA meetings and SGMA, I am happy to dive into the "fun stuff" too. We have quite the lineup for our members to participate in this year and are excited to announce some of what 2024 has in store.

Our 2024 event calendar:

Farm Day: March 14th at the Kings Fairgrounds
Member Appreciation Night: April 10th at the Visalia Rawhide Ballfield
A Water Forum: May 30th at West Hills College Lemoore
Harvest Classic Golf Tournament: October 28th at Kings Country Club
Annual Meeting: November, date and location to be announced

These are the standing events on the KCFB calendar, but we also have informational workshops and other smaller scale events in the works so please stay tuned for those announcements. Also on our 2024 agenda is a media outlet overhaul! We have started a YouTube channel, (@KingsCountyFarmBureau) plan to give our website a facelift that includes new member resource pages, and as always social media, E-News and Farm Life outreach efforts to keep you informed. Its safe to say you'll be hearing a lot from us this year. 🙌



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“SGMA” continued from page 1

hearing date untouched.

Undoubtedly, the SGMA will restrict the volume of groundwater that landowners can legally extract. The initial plans of the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSAs aimed to postpone pumping restrictions until around 2040, when the SGMA mandates sustainability. Regrettably, it is now evident that these restrictions will be imposed much earlier. For some GSAs, groundwater limits could be introduced as early as Spring of 2024. Along with these restrictions, pumping fees will be levied by the GSAs implementing the new regulation.

Many GSAs in the Tulare Lake Sub-basin have been collecting taxes per acre through a Prop-218 election. This is the formal process required to levee such a tax and must be approved by a vote of the landowners of the GSA. Those funds have been used for GSA operations to date. In most situations, the expected pumping fees will fund a well-mitigation program. As required by the SWRCB, a well-mitigation program funded and managed by each GSA must exist to finance the repair or replacement of domestic wells that go dry or are damaged due to lowering groundwater levels. Early estimates show that well-mitigation funds in each GSA will likely be their most significant expense.

As mentioned above, all five GSAs in the Tulare Lake Subbasin must agree on all components of the GSP and implement GSA-specific programs that do not negatively impact each other. In a letter to the SWRCB dated December 11, 2023, the Tri-County Water Authority (TCWA) stated that the GSA is currently sustainable and should be exempt from consideration during the April probation hearing. Having one GSA stand out from the others requesting exemption may harm the sub-basin. SGMA requires coordination and assurance that local agencies work together.

The South Fork Kings GSA attempted twice in 2023 to pass a Proposition 218 election implementing a tax on property within the GSA boundaries. Had it passed, the tax would have funded the operations of the GSA. After failing twice, the future of the GSA is questionable. During a special board meeting held on December 21, 2023, the South Fork Kings GSA Board of Directors approved a third attempt at passing a Prop—218 election. The GSA has proposed an assessment of not to exceed \$9.80 per acre. If the GSA fails, the SWRCB will likely take over management of the area.

The sub-basins GSP, GSA coordination, and financial stability all factor into the SWRCB's decision on probation. If placed on probation, groundwater pumpers should expect a notice from the SWRCB informing them of the decision and next steps. What is currently known about probation are the following. The SWRCB will require all wells in the sub-basin to be registered with them, and a fee will be charged per registration. The SWRCB will take the first 12 months of probation to gather pumping details from the sub-basin. Based on that data, the SWRCB will determine a pumping rate for the region, and that will be the allocation. Once the groundwater allocation is determined, pumpers can expect a per acre-foot pumping charge paid to the SWRCB.

The well registration fees and pumping rates paid to the State will not eliminate taxes or fees paid to the local GSAs. The SWRCB is required by law to charge enough to cover the cost of State resources used in the sub-basin and nothing else. Unlike a GSA, the SWRCB cannot collect fees from pumpers and use that money to build projects for finance domestic well replacement or repair. GSAs will charge their determined pumping fees to fund local programs and projects. For example, well-mitigation and recharge basins. How local funds are used is ultimately determined by the GSA.

The SGMA states that if a sub-basin is placed on probation, it can address GSP deficiencies and remove the probationary status. If the sub-basin is placed on probation, GSAs should continue to work on GSP revisions and local policies to achieve sustainability and present them to the SWRCB for consideration. Once the SWRCB is convinced that the GSP will achieve sustainability under SGMA, the SWRCB will relinquish control to the local authorities.

California agriculture faces many challenges in 2024, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is undoubtedly the hardest. Food production is among the noblest causes in the World, and agriculture must continue in this great State. Keep up the good fight, and know that Kings County Farm Bureau is fighting alongside you. 🤝




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For my information, please contact Breanna at the KCFB office. blarman@kcfb.org or 559-584-3557

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District 5 Board of Supervisors Candidates



My name is Adam Medeiros and I am running for Kings County Board of Supervisors. I am a Christian, family man, business owner, experienced community leader and person of integrity.

I immigrated to Hanford from the Azores. Though we grew up poor, I learned the value of faith, hard work, and determination.

Adam Medeiros

Growing up on a dairy, I have great respect for the Ag industry. Despite the government mandates and water restrictions, I am committed to see the industry thrive.

Having owned a business for over 40 years, I've learned to navigate financial challenges and fiscal responsibility. It has taught me the importance of maintaining relationships in a small community.

I've served 10 years on the KRH School Board. I'm currently serving my second term with KCOE, and served 20 years on the board at Koinonia Church. I am well versed in Roberts Rule of Order, know how to work within the confines of an operating board while still being a voice for the people.

When facing challenging times, we need leaders with integrity, wisdom, dedication and courage. I am committed to our community and believe that we can work together to improve the quality of life in Kings County.



Robert Thayer

Undersheriff, Kings County

I have over 34 years of experience dealing with crime, mental health and poverty and its impacts on our families, our communities and our county. I am a voting member on our Homeless Collaborative and sit on the Board of Directors for the Kings Partnership for Prevention.

Homelessness is a state-wide crisis. I will lead our local efforts to improve community blight and connect the homeless to readily available resources.

Agriculture pumps 2.2 billion dollars into our economy which literally and figuratively feeds our families. I am a staunch supporter of our farmers and will work tirelessly to advocate for their needs!

I'm a fiscal conservative and refuse to raise the taxes you pay! I'm a committed husband for 31 years to my lovely wife Kim, the proud father of 3 adult children, and a grateful papa to my first grandson.

I ask for your vote! Visit electrobertthayer.com to learn more.

Crime and homelessness threaten our communities.

As the Undersheriff I have a long and successful record navigating the complexities of running a professional law enforcement organization. Public safety is my top priority and I will vote to provide funding and keep Kings County safe.



Tyler Pepe

I will always put Kings County families first. I will fight to support Kings County agriculture, grow the economy, and secure more water for Kings County families and farmers.

Working for my family business from a young age has equipped me with the skills needed to be an effective leader. I am a proud husband, and father of 3. I will work tirelessly to ensure my family has the same opportunities I had growing up in Hanford.

Kings County has one of the most active agricultural communities in the State of California. Kings County Agriculture cannot continue without an adequate supply of water. I will fight to ensure we keep Kings County water here, in Kings County.

I would be honored to earn your vote for Kings County Supervisor District 5.

Richard Fagundes and David Ayers are also running as candidates for the District 5 Board of Supervisor position but declined participation in this article.

Westlands Water District Sets New, More Ambitious Groundwater Recharge Target

By Steve Pastis

On November 21, Westlands Water District announced that with the "strong enthusiasm of district farmers," its Westside Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan reached its target of recharging 200,000/AF of groundwater ahead of schedule.

As a result of that accomplishment, the district decided to raise the bar by setting the new, more ambitious target of recharging 275,000/AF by the end of February.

"(Reaching the initial goal) demonstrates that farmers in the district are innovative and hardworking, and will do what it takes to have groundwater in the future," said William Bourdeau, vice president of Harris Farms, who serves on the board of directors of Westlands Water District. "I'm glad it happened so quickly."

"This outstanding achievement demonstrates the district's dedication to ensuring a long-term water future in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley's prime farmland," said Allison Febbo, general manager of Westlands Water District, in a press release. "This year, farmers and the district went from drought to abundance of water supply and quickly pivoted to capture as much water as possible. With over 434 projects approved and a handful more coming online in the next few weeks, the district is in a great position to take advantage of another wet year."

"I hope we have a wet winter," said Bourdeau cautiously, noting that, "November and December

have been kind of dry."

Since 2019, the district has been working with water users to develop recharge projects on their properties. The goal has been to use occasional abundant rainfall to increase the water supply in upper and lower aquifers. Last year's "El Niño" conditions resulted in a greatly increased water supply, but farmers in the district know they need to be prepared for future droughts.

Last year's rainfall – which followed years of drought conditions – helped motivate water users in the district to participate in the Westside Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The plan will help the district meet its obligations to California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, signed into law in 2014, establishing guidelines for managing groundwater locally for long-term sustainability. Groundwater is estimated to account for up to 60 percent of California's total water supply during dry conditions, making it a critical component of water storage in the state.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

The district offers five different agreements for water users to participate in its groundwater sustainability plan:

- Soley WWD Recharge 2 TAF – The district covers the cost of the recharge and recharges using district facilities. The district retains 100 percent of the credits.

- Zero Rate Program 51 TAF – The district delivers surface water at no cost to approved recharge facilities. The groundwater credits created under are split 50/50 between the district and the water user.
- \$100/AF Program 44 TAF – The district pays the water user \$100/AF of the water recharged. All of the groundwater credits will be retained by the district.
- 75/25 Program 2 TAF – Water users will deliver, recharge, and pay for their surface water while the district reimburses participating water users at the rate of \$62.36/AF. Twenty-five percent of the groundwater credits will be allocated to the water user and 75% will be retained by the district.
- Private Recharge 151 TAF – The water user covers the cost of the recharge and recharges using their facilities. The district retains 100 percent of the credits.

Farmers who agree to any of these options can select from four different types of groundwater recharge projects. Three of the projects can be stopped and started by program participants at any time based on crop management and rotation, cultivation, water supply, or other agricultural conditions. Those signing up for the \$100/AF program standard terms, however, commit through the end of the water year.

Of the first 434 applications approved, more than

"Westlands" continued on page 8

Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

The California Cotton Pest Control Board What it is and what it does?

Contributed by Linda Schrupf

The California Cotton Pest Control Board (CCPCB) is an advisory board within the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Integrated Pest Control Branch. The Cotton Pest Control Program within CDFA is overseen by the CCPCB, which makes recommendations to the CDFA Secretary on all matters concerning the Program.

The Integrated Pest Control Branch (IPC) conducts a wide range of pest management and eradication projects as part of the Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Pest Prevention Program. Assessments and fees are collected for some program activities and services. The Branch cooperates with other California state agencies, federal and county agencies; research institutions; agricultural industries and other non-governmental organizations.

The Pink Bollworm (PBW) was first detected in Texas in 1917. It is thought to have arrived from northern Mexico naturally or through infested shipments. The PBW Program is one of the most successful and longest running, area-wide integrated pest control programs in the world. The program has been in operation since 1967. The program is funded almost entirely by assessments on each bale of cotton produced by California cotton growers as authorized in the California Code of Regulations Section 3600 (CCR 3600). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) does also contributed funds to the program.

The program has prevented infestations of PBW from becoming established in California cotton growing regions. The program utilizes a multi prong approach to eliminate PBW. This includes sterile moth release, insect trapping, mating disruption, a host free period, and 100 percent transgenic *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cotton in Southern California.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) deploys pheromone baited insect traps in cotton growing areas. A pheromone is a substance secreted by the female moth to attract the male. A synthetic pheromone is used in the trap. Sterile moths are reared at a CDFA/USDA PBW Rearing Facility in Phoenix, Arizona. The sterile moths are released by aircraft over areas where the insect traps indicate the need. Occasionally the pheromone will be applied to an area. The moths are then unable to find each other to mate. The host free period refers to a period of time in which the host plant, in this case cotton, may not be grown.



The introduction of genetically modified cotton, known as Bt cotton, played a significant role in controlling the pink bollworm. Bt cotton expresses a toxin derived from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which is toxic to certain insect pests, including the pink bollworm.

The CCPCB is comprised of nine cotton industry members from counties across the State and one public member. All CCPCB meetings are open to the public and information regarding upcoming meetings can be found on the Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services' Meetings web page: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/Meetings/>

The term of office for a Board Member is unlimited. The members receive no compensation, but are entitled to payment of necessary travel expenses in accordance with the rules of the Department of Personnel Administration. Members are considered public officials and must be willing to comply with necessary disclosure requirements.

The board oversees these activities such as: cotton mapping, PBW general detection trapping, plowdown survey, review of plowdown reports submitted by CAC, evaluate effectiveness of Reduced tillage permit system, determine feasibility of reduced tillage permits for next year, and provide Silverleaf Whitefly survey reports to industry on a bi-weekly basis.

Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue proclaimed U.S. cotton to be free of PBW in October of 2018. PBW had cost cotton producers tens of millions of dollars yearly in control costs and yield losses. To ensure continuation of this status, California standards continue to be implemented. PBW is an invasive pest and the strategies used to eliminate the pest must remain in place to ensure no resurgence occurs. California County Agricultural Commissioners continue to enforce plow down requirements and require growers to remain vigilant in compliance with the plow down requirements.

For more information or any questions please contact the Kings County Department of Agriculture, (559) 852-2830 or agstaff@co.kings.ca.us 📧



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“Legislation” continued from page 1

bargaining representative to seek a temporary restraining order on behalf of an employee or employees who suffer unlawful violence, or a credible threat of violence carried out at the workplace. Previously, only employers were authorized to seek such an order.

Finally, SB 553 requires Cal/OSHA to adopt a general industry workplace violence regulation by December 31, 2026.

Sick Leave Policy

California’s new paid sick leave law, **SB 616** (Gonzalez, 2023) expands California’s existing paid sick leave requirements. As of January 1, 2024, an employee is entitled to five days or forty hours of paid sick leave. Previously, employees were entitled to three days or twenty-four hours. Employers may still allow employees to accrue paid sick leave at the rate of one hour for every thirty hours worked. Regardless of the accrual rate, employees must be able to accrue forty hours by their 200th day of employment. Additionally, employees must be able to accrue at least twenty-four hours of paid sick leave by their 120th day of employment. Alternatively, employers may “frontload” the entire amount of paid sick leave. Employers may limit an employee’s annual use of paid sick leave to forty hours. Employers may cap an employee’s paid sick leave accrual at eighty hours or ten days; previously, the accrual cap

was forty-eight hours or six days. Also amending California’s employment policy, SB 848 (Rubio, 2023) allows an eligible employee to take up to five days of unpaid leave following a “reproductive loss event.” Employees experiencing a reproductive loss and wishing to take a leave must be employed by an employer with at least five employees for at least thirty days prior to the commencement of the leave. The law defines a “reproductive loss event” as the day or, for a multiple-day event, the final day of a failed adoption, failed surrogacy, miscarriage, stillbirth, or an unsuccessful assisted reproduction.

Minimum Wage

California’s minimum wage will increase to \$16 per hour for all employers on January 1, 2024. Some cities and counties in California have a local minimum wage higher than the state rate.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS:

Advanced Clean Fleets

In April 2023, the Air Resources Board approved the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation, which requires medium and heavy-duty vehicles to transition to zero-emission by 2045. The regulation applies to fleets performing drayage operations, those owned by governmental agencies, and high priority fleets with vehicles greater than 8,500 pounds, off-road yard tractors, and light-duty mail and package delivery vehicles.

High priority fleets, entities that (1) own, operate or direct at least one vehicle in CA and have over \$50 million in gross annual revenues or (2) own, operate, or have common ownership or control of 50 or more vehicles, must only purchase zero emission vehicle or near zero emission vehicles starting in 2024 and comply with the Model Year Schedule, removing internal combustion engine vehicles at the end of their useful life, as defined.

Plastic Packaging Reform

Following passage of **SB 54** (Allen) in 2022, Cal Recycle has begun the rulemaking process to prohibit single-use plastic packaging and food ware and implement a statewide Extended Producer Responsibility program for producers of plastic packaging and materials. In 2024, Cal Recycle will have chosen the lead, so to speak, of the EPR program, known as the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) and all producers of plastic materials will be obligated to join the PRO, unless pursuing an alternative compliance route. Cal Recycle is obligated to finalize the regulations for SB 54 by 2025.

If you have questions regarding any of these forthcoming laws, please reach out to Louie Brown at lbrown@kscsacramento.com or Ann Grottveit at agrottveit@kscsacramento.com. 📧

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half (231) were for flood-managed aquifer recharge projects, which call for flooding beyond what the crops root zone needs. This method helps to recharge groundwater, gradually restoring the upper aquifer and in many cases the lower aquifer.

With 115 projects, percolation basins were the second most popular project. Percolation basins recharge surplus surface areas by using open-bermed areas to bring surface water into permeable soils.

Aquifer storage and recovery projects (76) bypass the Corcoran Clay layer present in much of the district by injecting filtered water directly into both the upper and lower aquifers.

Sublateral recharge projects (12) pump water into a standpipe and through perforated pipes into both the upper and lower aquifers. This method can be the most expensive because it requires farmers who don't already have an underground percolating pipe to invest in one.

Growers in the district have also been capturing groundwater on their own.

“Many of our growers have sophisticated irrigation systems,” said Febbo, adding that some have underground water systems, which minimize evaporation.

Growers have also been taking other measures to help capture rainwater, such as field fallowing, creating berms, and “just breaking up the topsoil,” she said.

OTHER GOALS OF THE DISTRICT

“We need to do a better job of communication,” said Bourdeau, explaining that the public needs to have a better understanding about issues that farmers face, including getting the water they need for their crops.

He wants farmers to “think of ways that are non-traditional” to maintain groundwater, noting that there is a political effort underway to make sure that farmers interests and concerns are heard. There is also the constant effort to find more drought-tolerant crops.

“We are trying to find ways to pull water out of high aquifers,” he said, adding that grant money has been allocated to start a pilot program for that purpose.

“Growing crops is necessary,” he said, but added that, “rural communities also rely on surface water.”

Westlands Water District, which serves the farmers and rural communities on the west side of Fresno and Kings counties, has been dedicated to agricultural water conservation for more than 70 years. For more information about the Westside Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, visit the district’s website at wwd.ca.gov or call (559) 224-1523.

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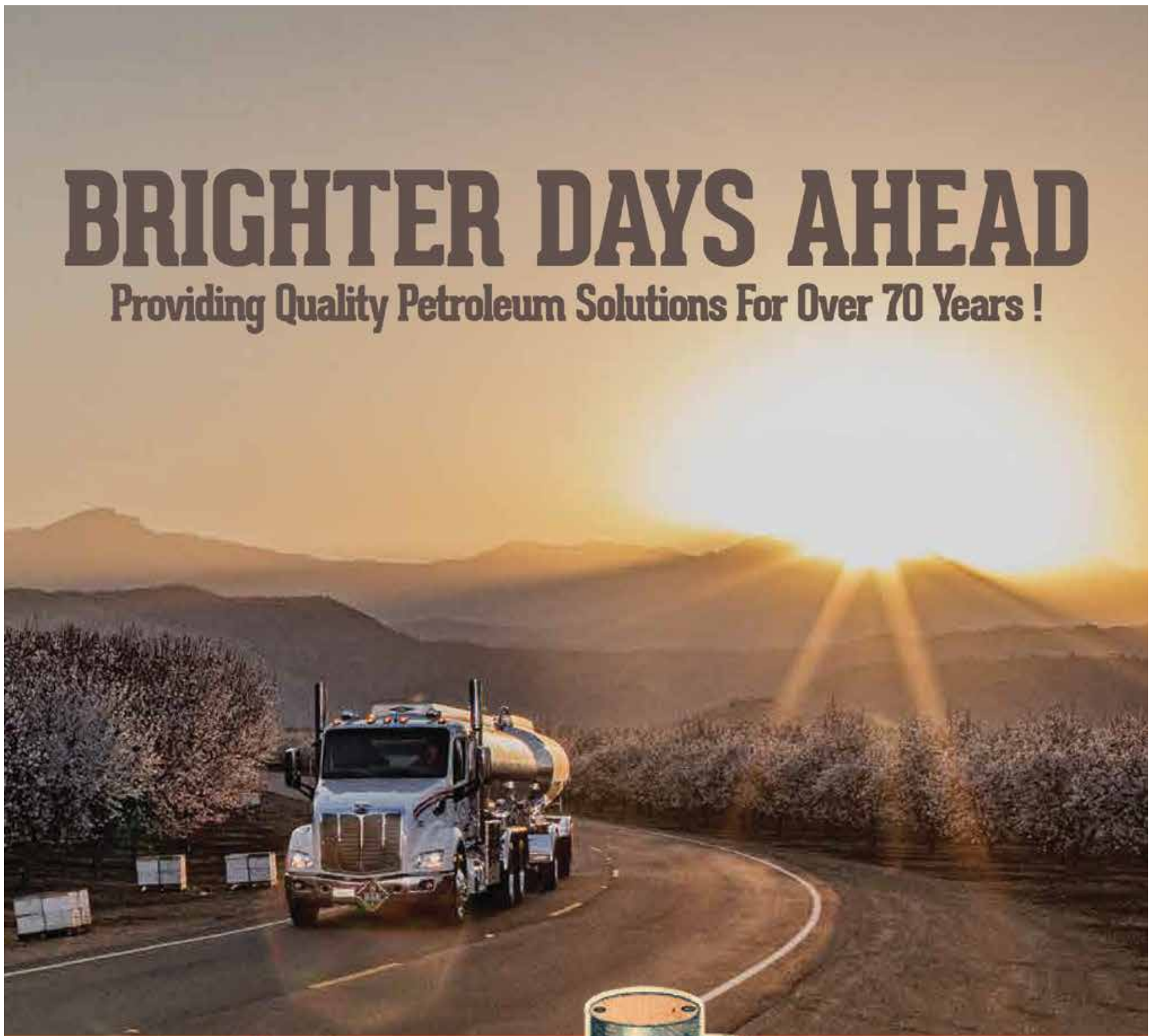
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2024 Scholarship Applications are open

Kings County Farm Bureau has long been a proud supporter of agriculture education, and invests in the industry's future leaders by awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. The window for the class of 2024 to apply for next year's scholarships is now open, and applications can be found at kcfb.org/scholarships. Since the start of KCFB's scholarship program in 2007, the organization has awarded more than \$100,000 to deserving students. Scholarships are awarded to qualified students who plan to further their education at a two- or four-year accredited college, university or vocational institute and pursue a career in agriculture. The recipients are selected based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, determination, leadership skills and a commitment to a career in agriculture. **Scholarship applications are being accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2024. More information, qualifications and applications are available on our website, kcfb.org/scholarships.**





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