

Benefits of Water Supply and Water Quality Bond Act of 2018 for California agriculture

The water bond initiative contains the following funding categories which should be of benefit to the California dairy industry.

Safe Drinking Water and wastewater treatment. \$750 million. Dozens of communities in the Central Valley, along the coast and in the Coachella Valley lack safe drinking water supplies and adequate wastewater treatment facilities. These communities are home to many of the farmworkers employed by California agriculture. It is in the interest of the agricultural industry of California to see that these workers have safe and sanitary water supplies and waste disposal systems.

Wastewater recycling. \$400 million. Properly treated wastewater can be used to grow crops.

Agricultural water conservation, with high priority for tributaries to the Delta. \$50 million. There is a proven need for increased efficiency in the irrigation district distribution systems of the San Joaquin River tributaries. This program will allow these districts to transfer conserved water, or better utilize the water within the districts.

Central Valley Flood Plan implementation. \$150 million. Many levees along the San Joaquin River provide inadequate flood protection for agricultural lands. Some of these funds could go to strengthening those levees.

Fisheries restoration. \$700 million. Delta water exports, including those for agriculture, are limited by Delta outflow requirements for endangered fish species. These funds will restore fish habitat in the Delta and its tributaries. If fish populations are restored, export restrictions may be relieved. Habitat restoration can be combined with reasonable outflow requirements to restore fish populations.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation. \$640 million. Groundwater overdraft in many parts of the Central Valley and Coachella Valley will have to be reduced due to SGMA implementation. These funds will make new groundwater recharge projects possible, as well as selectively reducing groundwater pumping.

Friant-Kern Canal restoration and related projects. \$750 million. The capacity of the Friant-Kern Canal capacity to convey water has been reduced up to 60% in some reaches due to subsidence caused by groundwater overdraft. These funds will allow full restoration of canal flow, as well as implementation of groundwater recharge and water conservation programs.

San Joaquin River Settlement agreement. \$100 million. These funds will help implement the agreement, which aims to restore fisheries in the San Joaquin River. This will firm up water supplies for those reliant on the San Joaquin River.

Oroville Dam repair. \$200 million. Irrigators in the State Water Project service area will benefit from the repair of Oroville Dam.