



MEMORANDUM

TO: SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY DIRECTORS
FROM: DAN KEPPEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: UPDATE REPORT
DATE: APRIL 3, 2023

This memo is intended to keep you apprised as to what is happening on policy issues the Family Farm Alliance (Alliance) is engaged in. In the past month, much of our efforts have focused on engaging with Congress on the 2023 farm bill, trekking water legislation with Senate committee staff, engaging in litigation and administrative matters, and preparing for and testifying at a House subcommittee hearing on Western water. These issues and other matters important to our members are further discussed in this memo.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

1. White House Science Office Announces Resources to Combat Climate Change

The Biden Administration's White House Office of Science and Technology Policy two weeks ago released a series of new resources for federal and local government agencies working to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts. The new tools include a report to help [manage flood risk](#), a guide to help agencies [adapt to climate change](#), and an ["action plan"](#) aimed at making it easier for communities to access climate information. The announcement also included [a new framework](#) that's intended to bolster communities' resilience to issues such as natural disasters and aging infrastructure. The Administration also released its first-ever [Ocean Climate Action Plan](#), which is intended to find ocean-based solutions to climate change.

2. FY 2024 Budget Request

President Joe Biden last month released his FY 2024 \$6.9 trillion [budget request](#) that seeks a 3.3% increase in defense spending and a 6.5% increase for nondefense discretionary programs,

requesting increases for most major departments and agencies. The budget request is merely a blueprint for the Administration’s policy priorities, including a broad vision to cut the deficit by \$2.9 trillion over the next decade with a higher corporate income tax and a minimum tax on billionaires. The Biden budget will see staunch opposition from House Republicans, who have said they plan steep cuts to nondefense discretionary spending in their appropriations bills. The budget proposes significant increases for departments popular among Democrats.

a. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Reclamation has requested a [\\$1.7 billion budget](#) for FY 2024. Reclamation’s budget request includes a \$49 million request for the Lower Colorado River Operations Program, including \$16.8 million to build on the work of Reclamation, Colorado River basin partners and stakeholders to implement drought contingency plans. It also includes \$2.7 million for the Upper Colorado River Operations Program to support Drought Response Operations and \$200.3 million to find long-term, comprehensive water supply solutions for farmers, families, and communities in California.

Senator Mark Kelly (D-ARIZONA) recently called on Reclamation to use a portion of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) drought mitigation funds he secured to help farmers in the Colorado River Basin invest in water-efficient technologies. He was joined by Senators Alex Padilla (D-CALIFORNIA), Krysten Sinema (I-ARIZONA) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CALIFORNIA). “The U.S. Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation have unprecedented resources that can assist farming communities in the Colorado River Basin to voluntarily transition, where practicable, from flood irrigation to water-efficient and energy-efficient drip irrigation and implement other water conservation practices,” [the letter](#) states. “Doing so will save significant amounts of Colorado River water while avoiding the harmful impacts of fallowing.”

The budget includes \$62.9 million for the WaterSMART Program to support Reclamation’s collaboration with non-federal partners in efforts to address emerging water demands and water shortage issues in the West. The budget also includes \$210.2 million for the Dam Safety Program to effectively manage risks to the downstream public, of which \$182.6 million is for modification actions. Another focus area for infrastructure is \$105.3 million requested for extraordinary maintenance activities across Reclamation. The Reclamation request is about \$325 million less than enacted levels in FY 2023, when Congress added funding to the agency’s budget.

This budget request is complemented by nearly \$1.7 billion in funding Reclamation will receive in FY 2024 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Reclamation hosted a briefing today for stakeholders on the President's 2024 budget request on March 13 at 1 pm EDT. We’ll have additional details of that meeting for you in the coming days.

b. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA budget invests heavily in climate resilience. The budget supports \$1.2 billion in continued investments in USDA’s hallmark conservation programs and for work with landowners

to improve farm operations and enhance farm environmental sustainability. The budget includes over \$5 billion to restore our national forests and mitigate wildfire risk, a significant investment to prioritize and target landscape treatments under the 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy. Further, the budget increases investments in grants and lending authority to support rural communities in the transition to clean energy and invests in expanding the reach of the USDA Climate Hubs that provide technical assistance to producers.

The USDA budget proposes a suite of changes to the Farm Service Agency's portfolio of farm loans to make more producers eligible. Of significance, the budget requests \$569 million for a suite of critically needed wildfire firefighter workforce reforms, including improved compensation, increased workforce capacity, vital health and well-being assistance, and improved housing.

President Biden's USDA budget proposal doesn't have a ton of pull in a divided Congress, but it sets the stage for policies that will be important to Democrats in the next farm bill.

c. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Administration's FY 2024 budget asks for \$12 billion for the EPA, a 19% increase over its current enacted level and a record high amount that's almost certain to be trimmed during congressional negotiations. The Biden Administration has requested this funding to further their environmental priorities, such as winding down carbon emissions, cleaning up pollution, addressing environmental justice, and catching and penalizing violators. The EPA request calls for the addition of more than 2,400 employees from 2022 levels to bring staffing to roughly 17,000.

d. Department of Interior (DOI)

The FY 2024 budget is requesting a 9.3% increase over FY 2023's enacted level in the DOI budget, totaling \$18.8 billion. That includes \$5.7 billion for climate adaptation and resilience measures across the department, and, among other provisions, \$181 million to accelerate renewable energy development on federal lands—an increase of \$70 million. The Administration's budget request includes \$2.1 billion in discretionary funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and \$1.8 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) various science ventures. The proposal amounts to a more than \$300 million increase for the FWS over the fiscal 2023 level and an increase of \$288 million for USGS.

3. Department of Interior (DOI) Activities

a. Updated Rules Regarding Public Access on Reclamation Lands

Reclamation is seeking public comment on updates to regulations regarding public access to and conduct on all Reclamation projects, waters and real property. Reclamation is updating the existing definitions for aircraft usage and the possession of firearms, updating regulations on camping,

swimming; and winter recreation for the wide range of circumstances found across Reclamation, and clarifying the permitting of memorials and reburials on Reclamation lands. The proposed changes were published in [the February 16 Federal Register](#) for a 60-day public review. Comments are due to Reclamation on April 17, 2023. The updated regulations will replace the current rule, Public Conduct on Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, Lands, and Waterbodies (43 CFR PART 423) that was published in 2008.

b. Office of Inspector General (OIG): Oversight Plan on Water Programs

In a new [oversight plan](#) that identifies audit and inspection targets for 2023 - 2024, the OIG has indicated they will be initiating “discretionary reviews”, conducted by the OIG’s Office of Audits, Inspections and Evaluations on several water programs at Interior. Included are planned audits of appropriated funding spent in the Klamath River Basin as well as funding provided by the IRA to the Colorado River Basin, both separately mitigating significant drought conditions in these basins. Also on the list is the California Central Valley Project looking at lost revenues associated with uncollected fees for water deliveries. The majority of this planned oversight across the Department will include the billions of dollars that have flowed into the Interior Department in the last two years, including \$6.65 billion from the IRA, \$9 billion from the Great American Outdoors Act and \$30 billion from the BIL.

4. Endangered Species Act (ESA) Implementation Developments

a. Fish and Wildlife Service: Rule on Incidental Take Permits

FWS recently published a proposed rule on Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Enhancement of Survival and Incidental Take Permits. The new rule would clarify the use of the permits under ESA Section 10(a), and FWS authority to issue them for non-listed species. It would also simplify requirements by combining safe harbor agreements and candidate conservation agreements with assurances into one agreement type. The intent is to promote species conservation through voluntary agreements and make the process clearer, easier and more efficient. Comments are due April 10 at www.regulations.gov, Docket #FWS-HQ-ES-2021-0152.

b. Lawsuit Over the Pace of Interior ESA Listings Allowed to Proceed

Senior Judge Emmet Sullivan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has ruled the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) can continue with its legal challenge against the FWS on behalf of 192 species for which ESA decisions are overdue, setting the stage for one of the most expansive ESA lawsuits in history. In his opinion, Judge Sullivan wrote that “the ESA imposes a continuing duty on the FWS to make 12-month findings for petitioned species. Because the FWS is under a continuing obligation to act and has not yet acted, the Center’s claims have not accrued.” The ruling allows CBD’s lawsuit regarding the status of 192 species awaiting a 12-month finding under the ESA to proceed.

c. White House OMB Begins Review of Proposed ESA Rule Changes

The Biden Administration sent a proposed rule determining how federal agencies manage the ESA, from listing decisions to critical habitat designations, to the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for their review last month. FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share ESA responsibilities for different species and jointly submitted the proposals to the White House office, which is part of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Several ESA reforms were first announced by the Biden Administration nearly two years ago. When finalized, the revised rules will also reverse ESA rulemakings completed in the Trump Administration.

DEVELOPMENTS IN CONGRESS

5. March 8, 2023 House Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee Hearing

The House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries (WWF) conducted a hearing last month on the importance of multi-purpose water management across the country. While conflicts over water resources have existed long-term, federal policies and non-elected government agency staff have exacerbated some of these conflicts and threatened economies, the environment and ways of life. This hearing explored those threats while focusing on solutions. I testified at the hearing, along with Scott Corwin (Executive Director, Northwest Public Power Association), Martha Guyas (Southeast Fisheries Policy Director, American Sportfishing Association) and Amy Cordalis, a long-time advocate for, and member of, the Yurok Tribe in northern California. My spoken, 5-minute statement focused on: 1) the huge snowpack in California, and the importance of managing that in a way that sends most of it out to the ocean with minimal environmental benefits and NO benefits for human uses; 2) the multi-decade failure of the flow-centric management scheme to “protect” fish on the West coast; and 3) why now is not the time for our government to be taking farmland out of production. It was Rep. Cliff Bentz's (R-OREGON) first meeting as the new Chair of the WWF Subcommittee. Overall, it was a pretty good hearing, and I would say coastal state fisheries issues received about the same amount of attention as Western water.

6. March 28, 2023 House Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee Hearing

Last Tuesday, the WWF Subcommittee held an oversight hearing titled “*Why We Need to Store More Water and What’s Stopping Us*”. Over the past three years, much of the western United States has experienced prolonged, persistent drought and below-average precipitation. Those years have been some of California's driest on record. These extreme drought conditions have significantly depleted reservoirs and water storage. Now, California is experiencing extremely high precipitation levels, yet does not have the necessary infrastructure in place to store the excess water. Much of it is washing out to sea as a result. The hearing also showcased the need for managing the watersheds in our national forests to increase water supplies and improve forest health. Additionally, the hearing highlighted the need for increased water storage, federal

environmental regulatory accountability and forest management to advance long-term solutions to the water issues facing the West.

Witnesses included the Authority's own [William Bourdeau](#), [Tricia Hill](#) (Klamath Water Users Association), [Andy Mueller](#) (Colorado River Water Conservation District and a member of the Alliance Advisory Committee, and [Joshua Sewell](#) (Taxpayers for Common Sense, critics of government "subsidized" storage projects). We provided input to Ms. Hill and Mr. Mueller as they were developing written testimony.

7. House GOP Moving Energy Package to Include Permitting Reform Bill

We've been working with GOP staff at the House Natural Resources Committee for the past year on ways to modernize implementation of NEPA. We are always looking for ways to clarify ambiguous provisions, align NEPA with relevant case law, reflect modern technologies, optimize interagency coordination, and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process. The NR Committee conducted an oversight hearing two weeks ago on NEPA to hear testimony on how agency implementation of the law is generally mucking things up on the infrastructure front.

On March 9, the House Natural Resources Committee marked up and passed a GOP package of bills called the *"Transparency, Accountability, Permitting and Production of (TAPP) American Resources Act,"* which bundles three pieces of legislation from Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR), Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Chair Pete Stauber (R-MN), and Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA). The package includes the *"BUILDER Act of 2023,"* [legislation](#) from Rep. Graves, which the House Committee on Natural Resources debated at the hearing. The bill would shorten the time allowed to complete environmental reviews and to file lawsuits challenging those reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BUILDER Act would limit to one and two years the length of NEPA environmental assessments and impact statements, respectively. It would also place a deadline of 120-days for parties to file lawsuits related to projects.

The *"TAPP Act"* cleared committee on a 24-19 party-line vote but has virtually no chance of passing the Senate. The bill represents Natural Resource Committee Republicans' energy and permitting policy priorities for the 118th Congress. The BUILDER Act could garner bipartisan support as renewable energy as well as traditional energy projects are slowed due to NEPA process delays. Water infrastructure projects are also sometimes delayed by the NEPA process. The GOP package, including the NEPA reforms, was approved by the Committee and will be taken up by the full House later this spring, even though House Democrats on the Natural Resources Committee remain staunchly opposed to the package. The package may also pick up other bills from various House committees in the process.

8. 2023 Farm Bill

The farm bill is an omnibus, multiyear law that is typically renewed about every five years. With enactment of the omnibus spending bill in December 2022, lawmakers laid the groundwork for battles to come in the next farm bill. The current farm bill expires at the end of September. The planning and budgeting process for the 2023 Farm Bill has begun, and Congressional Agriculture committees are starting to outline the next five years' spending for national conservation, food, farm and nutrition programs. With so few bills likely to move this Congress, many advocates are seeking to make the farm bill their tool of choice to advance their agenda. One union, for example, [wants to make the farm bill a labor bill](#). Environmental groups see the farm bill as a cornerstone of any federal climate agenda, such as by making permanent the pandemic cover crop program.

a. Update from Capitol Hill

Politico recently reported that the House leadership chaos of January 2023 may have wide implications for the farm bill — including holding up work on the bill and complicating its eventual path to passage. However, the House and Senate Agriculture Committees are poised to focus on debating a new farm bill after lawmakers used the newly enacted omnibus funding package to clear their to-do lists. House Ag Republicans will make increasing oversight of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other nutrition programs a general priority in this Congress. Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) and 14 of his fellow Republicans are introducing a bill on Tuesday to tighten work requirements in SNAP. It's the first of what's expected to be a flurry of bills to rework SNAP in the farm bill, foreshadowing a bitter fight over the future of the program (*Politico Weekly Agriculture*). Democrats are still trying to formulate a strategy on SNAP.

House Agriculture Committee Chair GT Thompson (R-Pa.) and ranking member David Scott (D-Ga.), in a [letter](#) unanimously approved by the committee, asked the Budget Committee for more resources to enact the 2023 farm bill. Thompson and Scott's letter promised they'd write "a fiscally responsible farm bill," but more funds were necessary due to record inflation and supply chain disruptions from Russia's war on Ukraine. Their rationale included a number of programs, such as crop subsidies and trade promotion. Other priorities included strengthening the farm safety net (specifically commodity programs in Title 1 of the farm bill) and the IRA funds for climate-smart agriculture have already set up partisan fights on the committee. It remains to be seen whether the Budget Committee will grant their wish.

b. Farm Bill, Regulations

Republicans on the House Agriculture Committee said during a hearing last month that a new farm bill will deal head-on with federal regulations that they say are hampering production. Committee Chair Thompson didn't hold back in his opening remarks, and said, "this administration continues to promote nonsensical regulations and policies that create needless uncertainty for farmers, ranchers and working families, further limiting our ability to meet the growing food demands of

our nation and the world." Chairman Thompson's views, for the most part, appeared to be shared by most of the witnesses at the hearing.

c. California Field Hearing

House GOP leaders participated in a field hearing at the Tulare Farm show in California's Central Valley last month, where agricultural groups teed up their wish lists. The California Fresh Fruit Association pressed for a permanent disaster fund in the farm bill to reduce the need for ad hoc assistance — which has to pass Congress — when freak weather wrecks crops. Citrus growers asked for at least \$25 million to maintain funding for a trust fund to fight citrus greening disease. And the Farm Bureau Federation urged increased thinning on national forests, overseen by the USDA, to reduce wildfire risks. Freshman Rep. John Duarte (R-CALIFORNIA) is aiming to get more farmers on crop insurance, including specialty crop producers. Duarte says crop insurance and “regulatory relief” are among his top farm bill targets. Duarte, whose district has been hit by the recent flooding and storms in California, wants to ensure the farm bill helps the federal government move away from ad hoc disaster assistance for farmers by instead creating a “more comprehensive” crop insurance program. That could include lifting income caps for some of that assistance given the high costs of farming in California, he said.

d. Family Farm Alliance Farm Bill Priorities

The Alliance throughout 2022 prepared for the next farm bill by engaging with agricultural and conservation partners, developing written testimony for Congressional hearings, and working with its members to prioritize its energies in the farm bill debate. Earlier this year, we put together our Farm Bill “wish lists” for Congressional offices and committees. Once again, the Alliance will work closely on this with its partners in the Western Agriculture and Conservation Alliance (WACC). Last month, the WACC finalized its Farm Bill platform.

Outside of WACC engagement, the Alliance this year will continue to work directly with Congressional agriculture committee staff and Western Members of Congress on the next farm bill. We had key members of the House and Senate Ag committees participate in our “DC Update” panel at our February conference in Reno, and House Ag Committee Senior Policy Director Josh Maxwell helped lead our “Farm (Bill) to Fork” event on February 24. A large portion of the energies at the Alliance will be devoted to the 2023 Farm Bill conservation title. We have been working with Western Growers and several Western state Farm Bureaus to do some reconnaissance work and begin efforts to work together to push water/drought ideas in the Farm Bill. Key priorities are PL-566, forest restoration, and pushing for the need to ensure that USDA conservation dollars – if they are directed at climate – are not solely focused on soil carbon but rather multiple benefits in particular practices that help with water resiliency/drought.

9. Senate Action on WOTUS Resolution Delayed Due to Absences

The Senate last Wednesday passed a resolution to overturn the Biden administration’s “waters of the U.S.” rule, 53-43, sending the measure to the White House for what President Joe Biden has already promised will be a veto. The House of Representatives earlier in the month passed a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act. A press release issued by the Congressional Western includes a quote from me on this development.

10. House NR Subcommittee Holds Intense Hearing on the ESA

The House WWF Subcommittee held a legislative hearing two weeks ago on three GOP sponsored bills to delist ESA protections for grizzly bears and gray wolves. Subcommittee Republicans would like Congress to look at reforming the 50-year-old ESA and give the states more power in managing and recovering endangered wildlife. Bill proponents Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-COLORADO), Harriet Hageman (R-WYOMING) and Matt Rosendale (R-MONTANA) argued that populations of grizzly bears and wolves had sufficiently recovered and that an overabundance of the animals now pose a threat to both livestock and people in their respective states. But Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CALIFORNIA), the subcommittee’s ranking member, called the delisting proposals “a hot mess of extreme anti-science, anti-tribe, anti-wildlife bills.” The Biden Administration’s Fish and Wildlife Service opposed the delisting proposals, stating that they circumvented the ESA scientific process, and environmental groups called the efforts “pro-extinction”, “anti-wildlife” and “misguided.”

11. EPA Slow to Spend Infrastructure Funds – House Subcommittee Oversight Hearing

EPA’s Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is warning in a March 23 report that the agency has only obligated and expended 1 percent of the \$60 billion Congress appropriated in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), bolstering GOP critics with their argument that the agency should not receive President Biden’s request for a \$1.9 billion (19%) budget increase in FY 2024 given its inability to spend the infrastructure funds. Last week, the House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee held a hearing on President Joe Biden’s IRA and other major legislative initiatives in a hearing with agency inspectors general for EPA and the Departments of Energy and Commerce as well as environmental experts from the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

ALLIANCE INITIATIVES

12. The Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments on Navajo Nation's Water Rights

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a case that could alter the battle over tribal water rights in the Western U.S. For more than 20 years, the Navajo Nation has fought for access to water from the lower Colorado River, which flows directly alongside the reservation's northwestern border. Drought-restricted water deliveries from the river to the seven states under

the Colorado River Compact of 1922 along with court decisions and a 1944 Treaty with Mexico (known as the “law of the river”) have drained reservoirs to their lowest levels since they first filled due to the drought. The seven states have yet to find consensus on how to cut water use and allow the river to recover while averting disastrous conditions if reservoir levels were to fall below outlets for power production and even downstream flows.

But the Navajo Nation, where a third of their people are without access to clean drinking water, says it has not been able to fully represent its own interests in disputes over its claims to Colorado River water. Instead, they say they've been blocked in court by the federal government, which says it represents tribal interests in water disputes. While both the Nation and the U.S. government agree that Indian reservations, including the Navajo Nation, have a right to water, the Supreme Court now must decide how far the federal government's responsibilities go in reserving that right, including building infrastructure to deliver that water across 27,000 square miles of Southwestern desert. The basin states have also filed briefs opposing the Nation's claims, arguing that a decision in favor of the Navajo Nation would create even more burdens on the over apportioned river and take water away from their populations and economies.

Alliance General Counsel Norm Semanko listened to the argument and he thinks [this story from NBC News](#) probably has it about right. Mr. Semanko said the panel seemed pretty divided and Justice Barrett could well be the swing vote. If they rule for the Navajo Nation, Mr. Semanko thinks they will try to trim back the ruling as much as possible to avoid creating a new, general duty to all tribes or opening the floodgates to additional litigation. He's just not sure they will be able to thread that needle, although he's still hopeful that the U.S. and the States can pull out a majority and snuff this threat out. The Western Water Users amicus brief that the Family Farm Alliance participated in was mentioned by Justice Kavanaugh during the questioning, in pointing out how this case could impact the settled expectations around a water system that is already fully allocated. Mr. Semanko did not hear any other amicus brief mentioned.

WESTERN WATER “HOT SPOTS”

13. Pacific Coast Salmon Crash?

The usual suspects in the corporate environmental camps are starting to raise hell about a looming salmon crash on the Sacramento River and other areas. I spent nearly a week sparring with various reporters on this matter, driven by some fishing advocates and environmental groups, trying to put the blame for a looming salmon crash on irrigation diversions. I honestly think this effort by the greens is related to Gov. Newsom's emergency declaration that loosened up environmental constraints for two months and should save about 500,000 acre-feet from blowing out to the ocean. The activists are saying it will have a negative effect this year on fish. I believe a lot of the "doom and gloom" recent news is propaganda intended to cast doubt on the governor's decision and to throw cold water on efforts to do more of the same. Not much is being reported about NMFS and Cal. Dep't of Fish and Wildlife overestimating the abundance of fall-run chinook in 2022. At the same time, commercial trollers caught 3x more fish (about 200,000) than they were supposed to.

Our written testimony prepared for last month's week's hearing (*discussed above*) has some good stuff in there regarding efforts our members are working on in the Sacramento Valley, Yakima Basin and Central Oregon, intended to help the critters, but also keep water in agriculture.

ADMINISTRATIVE & MISCELLANEOUS

The Alliance board of directors held a special meeting two weeks ago and took several key actions, following up on our internal meetings in Reno in late February:

- The board agreed to proceed with hosting the 2024 annual conference at Silver Legacy in Reno. We will put together a report by mid-summer that provides an assessment of other cities / hotels, including Sacramento, San Diego, Tucson, San Antonio and Austin. If one of those venues looks to be better than the Silver Legacy, that will give us time to prepare for moving the annual conference in 2025.
- The board approved the last draft of the "Six Point Plan", which will essentially drive Family Farm Alliance priorities for the upcoming year.
- The board appointed Nate Eckloff to replace Tom Schwarz and serve the remainder of his term as a Regular Director (NEBRASKA) and appointed Nadine Bailey to fill the remainder of Sandy Denn's term as a Regular Director (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA).
- We will schedule the 2023 Alliance farmer lobbyist trip for September/October of 2023. A half-day "virtual" farmer lobbyist trip will be planned later this spring.

Finally, I was invited to participate in a meeting Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), and other high-level Biden Administration Interior officials here in Klamath Falls a few weeks ago. Everyone had a few minutes to speak, but the intent was to focus on the message of the producers, who have had their supplies severely restricted to meet ESA fishery needs in the last three years. We'll find out soon if their concerns were addressed.

This is a quick summary of just a few of the issues the Alliance has been engaged in. Please do not hesitate to contact me at dan@familyfarmalliance.org if you would like further information about what the Alliance is doing to protect water for Western irrigated agriculture.