

Today is \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about \_\_\_\_\_ when we return

## **Senate Ag Committee Holding Perdue Nomination Hearing This Week**

**The Senate Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Sonny Perdue as Agriculture Secretary. The hearing Thursday, March 23rd, marks the next step in confirming Perdue to the President's Cabinet. The Former Georgia Governor, Perdue, was announced as the nominee on January 19th. The formal nomination of Perdue was sent to the Senate Agriculture Committee by the White House March 9th. Financial documents that show Perdue will step away from his business interests, along with an FBI background check, were forwarded to the Senate panel earlier this month. Politico reports that Senate Democrats have signaled they will not block the nomination of Perdue, as they have with other Cabinet nominees by Trump. The hearing adds to a busy agriculture schedule in Washington, D.C. for the week, which includes a farm bill summit at the National Press Club and National Ag Day events.**

## **First Water Use Reports Under New Regulations Due April 1**

**Under new regulations adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board last year, all water rights holders diverting under a permit, license, registration or certificate must file their 2016 annual use reports by April 1 (those filing Statements of Diversion and Use have until July 1 to file). The reports must be made electronically using the Water Board's Electronic Water Rights Information Management System Report Management System (eWRIMS RMS), which can be found [here](#). Failure to file water use reports by the deadline may subject diverters to fines up to \$500 per day.**

Under prior law, certificate holders were not required to file water use reports. Registration holders reported their use of water every five years upon renewal of the registration. This is no longer the case, however; under the new regulations, all water rights holders are required to report their use of water annually.

The measurement provisions of the new regulations, which require a measuring device to be installed at all points of diversion greater than 10 acre-feet/year, were not in effect in 2016. Therefore, in filing water use reports for 2016, diverters may estimate the quantity of water diverted based on their experience and knowledge about the diversion.

April 1 is also the date by which any water rights licensee or permittee with a diversion of 1,000 acre-feet/year or more who has not yet installed a measurement device must file a request for an extension of time, an alternative compliance plan or a measurement method (alternative compliance plans and measurement method

requests must be signed-off on by a professional engineer or a certified contractor). Measurement devices for diversions  $\geq 1,000$  acre-feet/year were required to be installed by January 1; failure to install such a device or request alternative compliance by April 1 could result in fines up to \$500 per day. Electronic forms for requesting an extension of time, alternative compliance or a measurement method are also available on the eWRIMS RMS website.

For more information on the April 1 reporting deadline for permits, licenses, registrations and certificates, contact Kirk Wilbur in the CCA office. For a more comprehensive analysis of the water measurement and reporting regulation, see the April edition of the *California Cattleman*.

### **Grape Crush Shows Bounce-Back Year**

As expected, the official final grape crush report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture showed a bounce-back year for California grape growers. Grape crush numbers for 2016 are up almost 10 percent year-to-year and are the highest totals since 2013.

### **Water Projects Funding Must Emphasize Storage**

A variety of applications will likely be submitted to secure funding for water projects from the water bond that passed in 2014. Although diversifying California's water portfolio may be a good philosophy, some water leaders say added storage must be a key component.