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# California

## UC-Davis beekeepers' conference to cover changes in industry



Courtesy of Kathy Keatley Garvey/UC-Davis

Honeybee expert Eric Mussen, an extension apiculturist emeritus at the University of California-Davis, and his wife, Helen, are planning the program for the 40th Western Apicultural Society conference, to be held Sept. 5-8 at UC-Davis.

DAVIS, Calif. — Changes and advances in beekeeping will be highlighted in a conference for bee producers Sept. 5-8 at the University of California-Davis.

Early registration for the Western Apicultural Society's 40th annual conference costs \$175 and will be taken through July 31. After that, sign-ups for the entire conference will cost \$225, while a single-day registration is offered for \$60.

The nonprofit WAS represents mainly small-scale beekeepers in the western portion of North America, many of whom will gather to hear the latest in science and technology pertaining

to their industry and how to keep their bees healthy, a news release explained.

At the conference, Bee Culture magazine editor Kim Flottum will address "The Rapidly Changing Bee Scene"; beekeeper and author Les Crowder will discuss managing honeybees in top bar hives; and bee expert Larry Connor will cover "Keeping Your Bees Alive and Growing."

"The beekeeping and honey industries are, and have been, extremely volatile," Flottum said in the release. "That's what happens when you have animals, the weather, government

and humans in the mix."

His presentation will include "what's going on at the moment that beekeepers should be aware of, and more importantly, what to expect in the near and not so near future" that will affect the industry, he said.

Some sessions will be held outdoors at the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility and the adjacent Haagen Dazs Bee Haven, a bee-friendly garden sponsored by UC-Davis' Department of Entomology and Nematology.

For information or to register, visit <http://www.westernapiculturalociety.org/>.



Kim Flottum, editor of Bee Culture magazine, will be a key speaker at the Western Apicultural Society conference Sept. 5-8 at the University of California-Davis.

## Nominations sought for San Joaquin Ag Hall of Fame

STOCKTON, Calif. — The San Joaquin County Agricultural Hall of Fame is seeking nominations for outstanding agricultural leaders and local mentors.

Now in their 33rd year, the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce-sponsored awards recognize those who have contributed to agriculture and to the community in significant ways. Awards are given to at least three living recipients as well as posthumous ones.

All those previously recognized in the Hall of Fame have their pictures and biographies on display at the San Joaquin Historical Society and Museum and in the lobby of the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center.

Nominations are requested by 3 p.m. Aug. 11. For information, contact Timm Quinn at (209) 292-8423 or visit [www.stocktonchamber.org](http://www.stocktonchamber.org).

## Delta tunnels project reaches key milestone as opponents may sue

By TIM HEARDEN  
Capital Press

SACRAMENTO — The state has reached a key milestone in its \$15.7 billion proposal to build tunnel bypasses around the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta as an environmental group is threatening to sue to stop it.

The twin tunnels, both 40 feet in diameter and 35 miles long, would be California's most ambitious water project since the 1950s and 1960s. The project would enable Sacramento River water to be sent directly to Southern and Central California farms and cities, bypassing the Delta.

California's Department of Water Resources on July 21 certified that environmental reviews for the project, dubbed California WaterFix, meets all requirements under the state's Environmental Quality Act.

The "notice of determination" is a key step as water districts approach key decision points this fall, contractors said. Construction could begin as early as 2018, DWR



Tim Hearden/Capital Press

The Delta-Mendota Canal leads to the C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant, the federal Central Valley Project's main pump that sends water to farms and cities in Central and Southern California. The state has reached a key milestone in its proposal to build tunnel bypasses to send water from the Sacramento River to the pumps.

officials said.

"We're pleased to be one step closer to a reliable water system that will protect water for agriculture and millions of Californians, and support a healthier environment," Jennifer Pierre, general manager of the State Water Contractors, said in a statement.

But Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, executive director of the organization Restore the Delta, said the plan is "deeply

flawed" in that it would not create water supply reliability amid a period of increased and prolonged droughts but will saddle ratepayers with up to 75 years of debt.

Restore the Delta has long been an opponent of Gov. Jerry Brown's twin tunnels proposal, and the organization is working with other environmental groups and parties in the Delta region to prepare litigation, its leaders said.

Barrigan-Parilla would not say where the lawsuit would be filed or what it would allege.

"We always hope for the best and prepare for the worst," she told the Capital Press, "so that work is being done right now."

The state's notice was signed by acting DWR director Cindy Messer and filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. It follows recent federal biological opinions that state the project is consistent with environmental and wildlife protection laws.

DWR officials say they screened more than 100 proposals before analyzing 18 alternatives in depth in the 50,000-page final environmental impact report, which was certified July 21. Changes were made to shrink the project's footprint and minimize impacts to Delta landowners, officials said.

In addition to the certification, the DWR filed a "validation action" with the Sacramento County Superior Court to affirm the agency's author-

ity to issue revenue bonds to finance the project.

Meanwhile, the DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have been involved in proceedings before the State Water Resources Control Board to change the point of diversion for the state and federal water projects.

Supporters say the project would mean more reliable water for nearly 4 million acres of farmland south of the Delta as well as urban residents in Southern California and parts of the San Francisco Bay area.

Opponents argue the project would devastate the Delta's agriculture, as well as its historic towns and native species. Delta growers have told the Capital Press the project would take land in its path out of production and worsen water quality throughout the region.

The proposed tunnels are a key agenda item for Brown, who has made a solution to many of the Delta's water quality woes a focus of his administration. The governor's fourth term runs through 2018.



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30-2/#5

## Lisa Hanson: A Remarkable Combination of Farmer, Agency Leader and Mom





*Lisa Hanson stacks hay at her farm.*

**Lisa Hanson and her daughter Ellie, 16, enjoy raising and showing their flocks of Southdown and Hampshire sheep.**

By Mary Stewart  
OSU Extension Service

Standing atop a semi-truck trailer loaded with grass hay, Lisa Hanson lifts and then drops bales on the conveyor belt, which moves the forage into her Century Farm's ancient barn. Earlier that evening, Hanson coached her oldest daughter, Ellie, as she trained her ewe for competition at the Marion County Fair. During the day, Hanson concentrated on the state's agricultural issues and initiatives in her office at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, ODA, where she serves as deputy director. Hanson is a remarkable combination of farmer, agency administrator and mom who exhibits the energy, commitment and passion that makes her a success in all three aspects of her life.

"When I talk about my career and how I have moved through my career, I usually talk about it in terms of doors opening and walking through them. 4-H opened the door of opportunity for me," she said.

*4-H is the Youth Development program of OSU Extension Service. For more information <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/>*

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