



THE LOCAL VOICE FOR OUR FARMERS, RANCHERS AND DAIRY PRODUCERS SINCE 2013

VALLEYAGVOICE.COM

VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 9 • SEPTEMBER 2022

# WAKC Hosts Water Legislative Update

By Audrey Hill, Feature Contributor, Valley Ag Voice

On July 26th, 2022 the Water Association of Kern County held a *Water Legislation Update* at Bakersfield College. At the luncheon, Senators Shannon Grove, Melissa Hurtado, and assemblyman Vince Fong spoke to farmers, resource specialists, journalists, and interested citizens about the ways water has been and will be moving in Kern County.

The one-hour panel with the legislatures was filled with information, and it was clear that the major drought that California is facing has strained California's water supply beyond the infrastructure's capacity to retain it. Simply put, with groundwater supply dwindling, Californians must rely more heavily on above-ground, man-made storage during the dry months. Unfortu-

nately, the 50 million acre-feet of reservoir storage that was reported in 2020 by the Water Resilience Portfolio does not compare to the 850 million (1.3 billion acre-feet) storage capacity of the many groundwater basins that were once free-range. Vince Fong opened the discussion by stating that "We aren't going to conserve our way out of this problem. We actually are going to have to build infrastructure and grow our supply." Building water storage infrastructure for the state was one of, if not the main, take away from the update meeting. The question the state should decide soon is what infrastructure should be built?

The state has allocated 1.5 billion dollars to water resilience and long-term infrastructure. However, where, and how California will invest that money is still being debated. Senator Shannon Grove was excited to share

about the Delta Conveyance Project, which plans to replace the State Water Project's network of infrastructure around the Delta with large tunnels, making water easier to obtain in the Central Valley. The project is currently awaiting approval by the California Department of Water Resources but plans to bring water to the Central Valley without disrupting the delta smelt and salmon by use of low volume flows. However, the 1.5-billion-dollar allotment would not come close to covering the costs of the project. Rachel Becker from Cal Matters theorizes the project would take at least 16 billion dollars and 20 years to complete. Senator Hurtado believes a tunnel project like this one would increase storage, and therefore could be considered storage infrastructure, by improving flows. Additionally, assemblyman Fong notes that the state has a 97-million-dollar surplus, and he advocates



Water Legislation Update panel at BC. (Water Association of Kern County)

for finishing water projects that are already in motion with those funds. Fong also stated that finishing these projects would require around 3 to 3.8 billion dollars.

See **WAKC WATER LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** on **PAGE 5**

# Renegade Round-up: Modernization of the Agriculture Farm Laboratory at Bakersfield College

By Greg Cluff, LeAnn Riley, & Julie Beechinor, Bakersfield College Agriculture Faculty

The Bakersfield College Agriculture Farm Laboratory has been undergoing an extensive modernization for the last five years with funding from Strong Workforce, and large donations from local agriculture industries and organizations. Many of the projects are either completed or nearing completion and will be used as teaching tools this coming fall semester.

Some of the more educationally important plant and food science projects include the replacement of old grape vines and trellis systems with the most modern varieties

and systems, replacement of old citrus trees with the most modern varieties, development of a modern olive orchard using the new hedgerow management technique for olive oil production, planting of almond and pistachio orchards with the newest varieties, and development of a larger area for the production of seasonal crops such as vegetables and small grains.

Some of the more educationally important animal science projects include installation of a new year-around pasture area with an automated solid-set sprinkler system, installation of new automated drinking troughs with environmentally safe critter ramps, and installation of new industry standard dairy and beef cattle processing, palpation, and breeding chutes. We have also added outside horse runs with shade for stock for our eques-

trian courses and BC Rodeo team.

Of particular interest in this time of unprecedented drought is the complete modernization and mechanization of our irrigation/fertigation system. The new system is completely automated with each section or block being monitored for soil moisture content and being independently programmable to irrigate when the content reaches predetermined levels. Part of the system is an automated weather station which measures air and soil temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, evaporation, wind speed, solar radiation, and soil salinity in real time and sends the data via Wi-Fi to either computers or smart phones. The irrigation itself can be monitored and controlled using computers and/or smart phones. Using this system, we intend to demonstrate to our

See **AGRICULTURE FARM LABORATORY** on **PAGE 11**



Agricultural Farm Laboratory entrance. (Photo: Bakersfield College)

## Valley Ag Voice LLC

1412 17th Street, Suite 407  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PRSRT-STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 88  
Buena Park, CA

# Newsom Warns of Water Woes As Delta Debate Roils

By Christine Souza, Assistant Editor, Ag Alert

Gov. Gavin Newsom sounded an alarm last week as he announced a strategy to capture and store more water while investing in infrastructure to avert catastrophic impacts of an anticipated loss of another 10% in California water supplies by 2040.

Newsom's water plan seeks to create storage space for up to 4 million acre-feet of water, in hopes of capturing more water in wet years. He also called for increased water recycling and conservation and building desalination plants for ocean water and salty water in groundwater basins.

As Newsom declared "we have a renewed sense of urgen-

cy to address this issue head on," California farmers and ranchers were already severely impacted

by water supply cuts and a third year of drought. And they were bracing for things to get worse.

Just a day before Newsom's water message, the State Water Resources Control Board was hearing concerns about environmental documents for a proposed regulation to direct more river flows away from irrigators and down the lower San Joaquin River tributaries to benefit fish. The plan could make water for irrigation even more scarce.

California Farm Bureau Senior Counsel Chris Scheuring said the state's proposal to implement flows as part of the water quality control plan for the Sacramento-San

See **NEWSOM WARNS OF WATER WOES** on **PAGE 7**





# FARM BUREAU NEWS

*The United Voice of Kern County's Farming Community*



## President's Message

**By Patty Poire**  
**President, Kern**  
**County Farm Bureau**

Over the weekend, I was thinking about the movie Chinatown and how most

people don't realize that the movie was really about water and Los Angeles! It was set in time prior to the construction of the California Aqueduct; however, the famous line from the movie, "Either you bring the water to L.A., or you bring L.A. to the water" makes one wonder. The same can be said about farming in the San Joaquin Valley, where the construction of the California Aqueduct brought the water to where the soils and weather are the best in the world to produce fruits and vegetables to feed the country and the world. What both L.A. and agriculture have in common about bringing the water to them is that both have paid for that infrastructure to deliver the water. The entire state of California has benefited from that, including disadvantaged communities, many industries, and the tax revenue that the state legislators and governor enjoy.

One then wonders what has changed that now water is scarce! Pick up any newspaper in California and somewhere in that newspaper is an article about the drought and climate change. Is it really climate change or policy decisions that have triggered water scarcity? Apparently, back in 2014, California voters knew enough about the needs of the state as it pertained to water and infrastructure and voted for a \$900 million proposition that included new infrastructure to hold excess water in wet years to be used in droughts. But what has been constructed after almost 8 years?! Now the governor has come out with his "California Water Supply Strategy" that seems to attempt to move forward water infrastructure that could have been storing water or almost constructed. It has the following:

### 1. Develop new water supplies

a. Reuse at least 800,000-acre feet of water per year by

2030- and 1.8-million-acre feet by 2040

b. Expand brackish groundwater desalination production by 28,000-acre feet per year and 84,000-acre feet per year by 2040

### 2. Expand water storage capacity above and below ground by 4-million-acre feet

a. Expand average annual groundwater recharge by at least 500,000-acre feet

b. Work to complete the seven Prop 1 supported storage projects and consider funding other viable surface storage projects

c. Expand San Luis Reservoir by 135,000-acre feet

d. Rehabilitate dams to regain storage capacity

e. Support local stormwater capture projects in cities and towns with the goal to increase annual supply capacity by at least 250,000-acre feet by 2030- and 500,000-acre feet by 2040

### 3. Reduce demand

a. Build on conservation efforts to reduce annual water demand in towns and cities by at least a million-acre feet by 2030

b. Help stabilize groundwater supplies

### 4. Improve forecasting, data and management including water rights modernization

a. Improve flexibility of current water systems to move water throughout the state

b. Modernize water rights administration for equity, access, flexibility and transparency

These are good strategies; however, strategies don't necessarily mean actual infrastructure or results. What would be a true direction about actually achieving the strategies that the Governor has released was for him to also use his governor authority to exempt infrastructure projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) where all those strategies will be held up.

It will be interesting to see something similar to the Proposition 1 voted by voters in 2014, as to how many of his strategies actually come true in the next 8 or so



JOIN US FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND MINGLE WITH A DIVERSE GROUP OF LOCAL FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**5:00 PM - COCKTAIL HOUR | 7:00 PM - DINNER | 7:30 PM - PROGRAM**

**FARM TO FORK DINNER & COCKTAILS**  
**AT THE KERN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
**BUILDING 1, ENTRANCE AT GATE 40**

*Featuring*

**LOCALLY GROWN INGREDIENTS, LIVE MUSIC,  
SILENT AUCTION, AND AFTER PARTY.**

*Benefiting*

**KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

*the united voice of Kern County's farming community*

**FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE OR RESERVATIONS**  
**CONTACT US AT RAGBALOG@KERNCFB.COM OR 661.397.9635**

FEDERAL TAX ID #95-1711972. DONATIONS TO KCFB ARE GENERALLY NON-DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES; HOWEVER, THEY MAY BE DEDUCTIBLE AS TRADE OR BUSINESS EXPENSE.

## Young Farmers & Ranchers

### VALLEY AG VOICE

Published monthly by Valley Ag Voice LLC  
1412 17th Street, Suite 407, Bakersfield, CA 93301

**ADVERTISING** Dave Plivelich  
661-204-8160 • Ads@ValleyAgVoice.com

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION** The Marcom Group

**PRINTING** S&S Printing

**CONTENT SUBMISSION & OTHER INQUIRIES,**  
**CONTACT US AT** Info@ValleyAgVoice.com



### KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Romeo Agbalog, Executive Director  
661-397-9635 • RAgbalog@KernCFB.com

*Articles or commentaries are not direct opinions of  
Kern County Farm Bureau*



**By Timothy Collins**  
**Chair, Kern County**  
**Young Farmers**  
**& Ranchers**

The Young Farmers & Ranchers kept busy over the summer holding our 7th annual Charity Farmers Market and attending the

YF&R State Leaders Meeting. Our Charity Farmers Market is one of the major events we hold each year. Produce is donated to us from local farms and we use the donation money we receive from the market to support a local garden project. In 2022 we supported Norris Middle School's garden project and were hoping to hold the farmers market there but were unable to because of Covid restrictions. This year we supported Edible School Yard Kern County and were thankful to Norris Middle School for allowing us to hold the event at their school this year in place of last year.

The Charity Farmers Market is only a single Saturday morning event for those that come by for produce, but for us it takes a team of YF&R members to plan out the event months in advance and spend multiple days preparing and picking up donated produce leading up to the event. This year's event proved to be another success

in getting fresh local produce out into the community and raising money for the Edible Schoolyard that will be further used to teach kids about growing produce. We are looking forward to working with the Edible Schoolyard this fall to help with improvements to their garden and strengthen our relationship with them.

After canceling because of Covid in summer of 2020 we brought the farmers market back last summer and were able to continue improving on it this summer by receiving more donated produce and raising more money. We are very thankful for all the local farms, companies, and those in the community that were able to donate produce and support not only us but the Edible Schoolyard this year! We are also thankful for all those who came out on one of the hottest days of the year to get produce and give donations. If you were not able to attend this year be sure to make it out next July!

As I mentioned before, to make an event like our Charity Farmers Market happen it takes a leadership team willing to work. One of the ways we build that leadership team is through the California Young Farmers & Ranchers Summer Leaders Meeting. This is an annual event which was held this year at the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau office. Four of us from Kern County were able to attend. We took tours of some of their local vegetable and citrus farming operations on Friday afternoon and then had dinner while meeting and networking with leaders



*(Left-Right) Katie Verhoef, Lindsey Mebane, Tim Collins, and Christine Johnson at the California YF&R Summer Leaders Meeting in San Luis Obispo. (Photo: Kern County Young Farmers & Ranchers)*

from all the other YF&R groups throughout California.

We spent Saturday morning learning from the state organization and from the other counties about the benefits of Farm Bureau and YF&R, building membership, holding events and fundraisers, and improving personal leadership skills. We were able to report on Kern County YF&R's successful farmers market, clay shoot fundraiser, and many industry tours this year. Young farmers and ranchers are alive and well across the state and your Kern County YF&R is proud to be a part of what makes California the top ag producing state in America.

**Email:** KernYFR@KernCFB.com

**Instagram:** @Kern\_YFR

**Facebook:** KernYoungFarmersAndRanchers



# Once Upon a Farm: Frank and Evelyn Del Papa and Family



Frank and Evelyn were married for 71 years. (Photo: Del Papa Family)

**By Andrea Wright, Valley Ag Voice**

When loss affects a local farm family, the community tends to come together through their trust and faith in God to honor and remember those who have passed on. The story of the Del Papa Family is one from the heart and is prompted by the losses of the farmer's daughter, Deborah (Debi) Lynn, May 13, 2021, the farmer, Frank, October 6, 2021, and the farmer's wife, Evelyn, January 20, 2022. Frank and Evelyn were married for 71 years.

Frank and Evelyn Del Papas' journey is the story of two local farming families. Frank is the son of Kern Lake pioneers John and Amelia Simoni Del Papa. Evelyn is the daughter of Old River pioneers Jack and Hilda Sandrini Rossi. John Del Papa was born near Lucca, Italy and he came to America to join his brothers and settled south of Old River, also known as the Kern Lake area, and farmed cotton and alfalfa. He later opened a bar in Pumpkin Center where Cousin Herb, Buck Owens, and Merle Haggard performed. John met his wife Amelia Simoni and they had one son named Frank, born on May 6, 1928. Frank attended Ordena, Lakeside, and Fairfax School after his father bought a ranch in the Fairfax area. Like most farm children, hard work was expected at a very early age; Frank started farming on his own at about 16. He later lost his leg in a farming accident when he was 37 years old. The community pitched in to help, but Frank was back to work as soon as possible. Frank enjoyed racing and was an original member of the Smokers Racing Club. He later entered the tractor-pulling arena, with several versions of his modified tractor, Alkali. He was known as "Big Daddy" and was proud to be a lifetime member of Cal Poly's tractor pull team.

Evelyn's parents Jack and Hilda Rossi were from Northern Italy near the Swiss border. Jack came to America in about 1911 seeking the American Dream when he was 17, arriving first in New York, then later moving to San Francisco where he joined family friends.

He first worked as a dishwasher in San Francisco and later worked on a dairy farm in Fresno. While in Fresno, he heard of work on George Sandrini's dairy in Bakersfield which is where he met his wife, Hilda, who was one of George's daughters. The story goes that Jack was going to return to Italy to find a wife, but George told him that he had two daughters to choose from, and Jack chose Hilda. Hilda came to America around 1916 when she was about 12 years old. Hilda's story is that upon arrival in New York on the 4th of July, she was handed a banana to eat, and having never seen one before, she tried to eat the entire banana, peel and all. Jack and Hilda had four children: Elmer, Alyce, Melvin, and Evelyn. All their children were born at their Old River home located by the Monte Carlo Saloon where Old River Road and Taft Highway meet. They all attended Old River Elementary School (part of Lakeside Unified School District) and Kern County Union High School. At some point, Jack started his small dairy, and he and Hilda married. Later, he got his own plot of land and farmed on Taft Highway and Old River Road. Jack and Hilda were hard-working and together they milked cows, raised chickens, grew a garden, and made bread, butter, salami, sausage, and wine. Hilda would sew, knit, and crochet. The brothers, Elmer and Melvin, served in the military and then continued the family farming tradition on Old River. Theirs was truly an "American Dream Story" beginning with nothing and becoming successful.

Frank met his wife, Evelyn Rossi, through her brothers and the Italian community in Old River. At the time, Evelyn worked at the Bakersfield Hall of Records. Frank and Evelyn wed in 1950 at the age of 21. Their first daughter Deborah (Debi) was born on Christmas day and their second daughter Patricia (Pati) was born a few years later. Frank and Evelyn moved into their house in 1956 and were delighted to call Old River their home. Proud to be the oldest Italians left in the Old River area, they remained there until their recent deaths in 2021 and 2022.

Debi was a farmer's daughter and she loved her country life. She lived just around the corner from her parents. She attended Lakeside Elementary, West High School, Bakersfield College, and Cal Poly. She began her 32-year career as a teacher, primarily at Buena Vista Elementary, where she taught kindergarten through third grade at what was then a little country school. When her son Bernard was born, Debi transitioned into the role of a mother. Debi's faith was especially important to her and she was a kind person that always had a smile on her face.

Frank and Evelyn's daughter Pati continues to keep the family memories deep in her heart. Farming was a basic human existence for the Del Papa family. They were connected to the soil, air, and water. Frank cultivated his land, while Evelyn sought a simple life with meaningful work and pleasures. It is a life of successes and hardships, demanding work and sacrifice, and a

strong belief in God. It is amazing how this farm family in their very own corner of the earth created such a lasting effect on their daughters, grandson Bernard Ansolabehere and his wife Diana, great-granddaughter Betty and great-grandson Will, and the other family members.



(Left-Right) Frank, Evelyn, and their first daughter, Deborah (Debi) Lynn. (Photo: Del Papa Family)

# An Outlook on Cotton Demand and Profitability for 2023

**By Melissa Nagel, Feature Contributor, Valley Ag Voice**

On August 16th, 2022, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association hosted their 28th episode of Cotton & Coffee via Zoom. This month's edition welcomed Cotton Incorporated's President and CEO Berrye Worsham on to discuss the company's strategic budget and planning for the upcoming year. Other members of Cotton Incorporated were also present on the call to answer any questions posed by viewers, and the meeting was overall informative regarding both the U.S. and global outlook of cotton for 2023.

The four main bullet points that Worsham discussed during his presentation are as follows: 1) Current Market Status, 2) Strategic Issues and Plan, 3) 2023 Proposed Budget Summary, and 4) Longer-Term Global Market Landscape. Each of these points were discussed in detail and together offer a wider scope on the outlook of the cotton industry and what is being done to reduce the environmental impacts of manufacturing cotton, while still providing diverse and sustainable products for consumers worldwide.

According to Worsham, the cotton market has not only bounced back but exceeded its growth trend since Covid-19 hit the U.S. in 2020. Part of this statistic is due to the number of consumers who were homebound during the pandemic and the number of consumers who continue to work from home as the world is still struggling to recover from the affects of the pandemic. The cotton market is in good shape with consumer spending, retail



Cotton field. (Photo: Andrea Anderegg / Shutterstock.com)

use, and world demand of cotton products all on the rise heading into 2023.

Cotton Incorporated has plans in place to combat long-term issues such as the ongoing economic impacts caused by the pandemic, the current war between Russia and Ukraine, and even political issues brewing between China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Part of that plan is to increase supply chain transparency to allow consumers to learn where the source of their cotton products was grown and processed and what environmental impacts were caused during processing. Consumers are becoming more aware of their carbon footprint on the earth and concerned with what they can do to reduce it, and Cotton Incorporated is working to provide real data to

See **COTTON DEMAND AND PROFITABILITY** on **PAGE 5**

## Farm, Ranch and Transitional Use Properties



**ALMONDS PRICED REDUCED \$22,500±/AC**  
111.42± acres, 1 well, 1 domestic well and 3.14 AF Wheeler Ridge Maricopa WSD contract water, Grade 1 Excellent Soils

**FARMLAND PRICED REDUCED \$19,000±/AC**  
117.82± acres, located in Kings County WD/1 Well grade 1 - Excellent Soils, Hanford

**TABLE GRAPES \$33,500±/AC & \$36,500±/AC**  
119.92± & 150.27± acres, Delano Earlimart Irrigation District, Lower Tule River Irrigation District, Quality Varieties, Productive Soils

**WALNUTS SALE PENDING**  
149.33± acres, Lindmore ID and Wells, Productive Soils, Lindsay, CA.

**TABLE GRAPES \$35,000±/AC**  
154.36± & 406.65± acres, Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District, Quality Varieties, Excellent Soils.

**FARMLAND \$13,000±/AC**  
156.96± acres, Wasco Area, Semi-Tropic WSD non-contract water, 1 well, Productive soils, and Perfect for permanent crops

**DRY LAND PRICE REDUCED \$2,250±/AC**  
160 acres, mostly grade 1 soils, Near Valley Acres

**WINE GRAPES \$18,378±/AC**  
161.06± acres, Wasco area, Semi-Tropic WSD non-contract water, 1 Well, High-Density planting, Quality varieties, Productive Soils

**ALMONDS PRICE REDUCED \$16,500±/AC**  
320± acres, Wasco Area, Semi Tropic non-contract water, 1 well, Grade 1 Excellent Soils, Almonds in full production.

**ALMONDS \$18,964±/AC**  
394.47± acres, Wasco Area, Semi Tropic non-contract water, 3 wells, 863.4±KW Solar System, Productive Soils, Almonds in full production.

**WINE GRAPES SOLD**  
602.5± acres, Wasco area, Semi tropic WSD non-contract water, 4 Wells, High-Density planting, Quality varieties, Productive Soils

**ALMONDS AND FARMLAND \$21,790±/AC**  
995.11± acres, Wasco Area, Semi-Tropic WSD Contract and non-contract water, 5 wells, Productive Soils, and Almonds in full production.

**When it is time to sell your farm there is only 1 decision!**  
**Pearson Realty a Tradition in Trust Since 1919**



**ROBB M. STEWART, AFM**  
rstewart@pearsonrealty.com  
661.303.2930



**PEARSON REALTY**  
CalBRE Lic.#000020875  
4900 California Ave 210B,  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
www.pearsonrealty.com



**KAMERON M. STEWART**  
kstewart@pearsonrealty.com  
661.809.1817



# A Changing Market Gets a More Durable Cantaloupe

By Vicky Boyd, Reporter

Reprinted with Permission from California Farm Bureau Federation

Faced with pressure from grocery retailers and increasing labor costs, the California cantaloupe industry has transitioned from familiar Western shipper varieties to ones with a longer shelf life.

The newer varieties—referred to as extended shelf life and long shelf life, or ESL and LSL, respectively—also offer a potential to reduce food waste. But vegetable breeders face a challenge: The newcomers just don't have the same flavor and aroma of the Western shipper melons.

"Flavor and yield have been an emphasis, and I think yield trumped flavor for some time," said Garrett Patricio, president of Westside Produce in Firebaugh. "But flavor has come full circle. (The breeders) understand people have been frustrated or concerned about the varieties we're growing."

"We, as shippers, have two customers—the person who's buying the fruit and the person who's ultimately eating the fruit—and we can't lose sight of the consumer."

The family-owned grower-shipper began transitioning to long-shelf-life varieties in 2015 with about 30% of its acreage. By 2018, it had expanded to about 50% to 60% LSLs. Today, Westside Produce grows no Western shippers.

Patricio said the company typically begins with ESL varieties, then switches to LSLs for the bulk of the season. It grows several cantaloupe varieties based on experience with their performance during different parts of the season.

Joe Del Bosque, owner of Del Bosque Farms in Firebaugh, was one of the last Western shipper holdouts. Last year marked the final season he grew the older type commercially. He said increasing production costs forced him to plant long-shelf-life varieties this year.

But Del Bosque keeps a small patch of Western shippers for his fruit stand near Interstate 5 and Shields Avenue.

"It's just an economic thing," he said. "We can't continue with the Western shipper and compete with all of those who have switched over to the LSLs."

Fields of the older variety ripened over a drawn-out period, requiring crews to make 10 to 14 harvest passes across the field, Del Bosque said. With only a five- to seven-day total shelf life, if farmers missed picking Western shippers one day, that reduced the melon's overall



The California cantaloupe industry has transitioned to varieties with a longer shelf life. (Photo: California Farm Bureau Federation)

longevity by about 20%. Fruit that was ripe one day could be over-mature if they skipped a day.

The long-shelf-life varieties, on the other hand, hold up better in the fields, allowing growers to make only one to four passes. In addition, Del Bosque said many of the newer varieties have better yields and more uniform fruit size.

When the minimum wage was \$11 an hour, he said, Western shippers still penciled out because he grew them for premium organic markets. Four years later, the minimum wage is \$15 an hour. Coupled with the 40-hour overtime threshold, Del Bosque said it made the older varieties unprofitable.

"Western shippers have to be picked every day, and you can't pick every day and do it on a 40-hour basis," he said. "With the LSLs, we can skip a day or two days, and they'll weather it OK."

The newer varieties were bred using traditional cross-pollination techniques, with LSLs producing significantly less ethylene, a natural plant hormone that controls ripening. This allows them to last longer in grocery stores and in the refrigerator.

Extended-shelf-life varieties have a shelf life of 10 to 14 days under optimum conditions. But LSLs can last up to 20 days after harvest, according to information from the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board.

Reduced ethylene production also is why LSL varieties have firmer flesh, a harder shell and lack the old-fashioned cantaloupe aroma. But the melon's firmer flesh lends itself to fresh-cut fruit products.

Patricio said he's seen increased sales from food service, whether the melons are cut in half or offered as cubed fruit.

"It's been a preferred item for our fresh-cut guys for

years," he said. Whereas Western shippers had pressures of 5 to 6 pounds, LSLs may be 7, 7.5 or more. The higher the reading from a fruit penetrometer, the firmer the flesh.

Reduced ethylene production also has affected how crews harvest LSL varieties. Western shippers were considered mature when the melons separated cleanly, or slipped, from the vine. Consumers were taught to look for the slightly indented nickel-sized green circles where the stems used to be.

ESLs may either be forced slipped or clipped, depending on the variety. LSLs, on the other hand, don't slip, and harvest crews have to clip them from the vine.

Patricio said they now clip all cantaloupes to cater to some retail buyers who considered the slip to be a defect.

Determining LSL maturity, which involves looking for netting on the stem and slight cracking on the blossom end, is more difficult, Del Bosque said. They also may be slightly green when mature, unlike Western shippers that turned cream or even light yellow when ready to pick.

"The indicators are much more subtle," Del Bosque said about long-shelf-life varieties. "We've done some of these before. What we've trained our people to do is get as close as maturity as we can. The drawback is if you let them get overripe, the flavor starts to change."

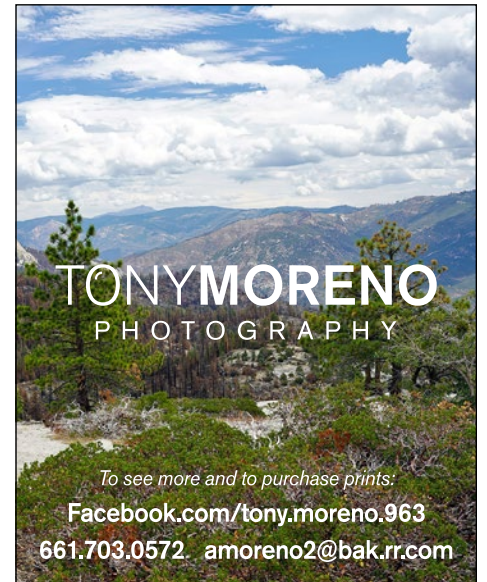
Mark Frahm, a Woodland-based melon breeder for Sakata Seeds America, acknowledged the flavors of the newer cantaloupe varieties aren't quite the same as Western shippers. The seed company introduced the LSL Infinite Gold in 2015 and has several potential releases in the pipeline that it hopes have an improved flavor profile. But breeding for multiple traits isn't easy.

"It's very difficult to breed any cantaloupe that is a strong performer for the grower and brings the desired flavor for the consumer," Frahm said. "Using Infinite Gold as a model, our goal is to make LSL varieties that are also enjoyable to eat and adaptable to difficult melon-growing regions."

To improve the consumer experience, the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board increased the minimum maturity standard to 12 degrees brix—or 12% sugar—for ESL and LSL varieties in 2019, said Patricio, the board chairman. The old standard was 9 brix.

Before harvest crews begin picking, he said they sample melons in a 10-by-10-foot square, and 80% to 90% of the fruit must exceed 12 brix. The measurement is a composite, taking into account that fruit closer to the crown ripens earlier than what is on the shoulders.

"That makes some of the crown fruit 14 to 16 brix," he said. "If you don't have some sort of standard or metric, you end up where you have people cutting fruit that isn't ripe. If you're not running 12 brix on your cantaloupe, you're not delivering a good product."



To see more and to purchase prints:

Facebook.com/tony.moreno.963

661.703.0572 amoreno2@bak.rr.com

## USDA Forecasts US Corn Down and Soybean Production up From 2021

Press Release Provided by U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Crop Production report issued August 12th by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecasted corn production down from 2021 and soybean production up from last year. Corn production is down 5% from last year, forecast at 14.4 billion bushels; soybean growers are expected to increase their production 2% from 2021, forecast at 4.53 billion bushels.

Average corn yield is forecast at 175.4 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels from last year. NASS forecasts record-high yields in California, Iowa, Washington, and Wisconsin. Acres planted to corn, at 89.8 million, are down 4% from 2021. As of July 31, 61% of this year's corn crop was reported in good or excellent condition, 1 percentage point below the same time last year.

Area for soybean harvest is forecast at 87.2 million acres with planted area for the nation estimated at 88.0 million acres, up 1% from last year. Soybean yields are expected to average a record high 51.9 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from 2021. If realized, the forecasted yields in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, and Virginia will be record highs.

Wheat production is forecast at 1.78 billion bushels, up 8% from 2021. Growers are expected to produce 1.20 billion bushels of winter wheat this year, down less than 1% from the previous forecast and down 6% from last year. Durum wheat production is forecast at 73.6 million bushels, up 97% from 2021. All other spring wheat production is forecast at 512 million bushels, up 55% from last year. Based on Aug. 1 conditions, the U.S. all wheat yield is forecast at 47.4 bushels per acre, up 3.2 bushels from 2021.

The report also included the first NASS production forecast of the season for U.S. cotton. NASS forecasts all cotton production at 12.6 million 480-pound bales, down 28% from last year. Yield is expected to average 846 pounds per harvested acre, up 27 pounds from 2021.

NASS interviewed approximately 15,350 producers across the country in preparation for this report. NASS is now gearing up to conduct its September Agricultural Survey, which will collect final acreage, yield, and production information for wheat, barley, oats, and rye as well as grains and oilseeds stored on farms across the country. That survey will take place during the first two weeks of September.

The Crop Production report is published monthly and is available online at [NASS.USDA.gov/Publications](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications).

**C&H FENCE & PATIO**  
candhfence.com

- Electric Gate Operators
- Swimming Pool Fencing
- Ornamental Iron
- Security Doors
- Commercial / Residential / Farm
- Construction Fence Rentals

**Oldest and most experienced fence company in the Southern San Joaquin Valley!**

**Thank you for 55 years of serving you!**

**BAKERSFIELD**  
**661-327-4786**

**VISALIA**  
**559-651-0772**

**DELANO**  
**661-725-3600**



# WAKC Water Legislative Update

*Continued from PAGE 1* Although, he was most eager about the Drought Package which is in its final negotiation stage. This package comes with 800 million dollars in state funding, and Fong strongly encourages citizens to come to Sacramento and fight for storage infrastructure to be included in that package.

Another concern Senator Grove has is the allocation of funds by the State Water Resources Budget Subcommittee to allow Governor Newsom to purchase senior water rights. According to Senator Grove, this uses taxpayer dollars to “starve out our farmers” and our producers until “they have no alternative but to sell their water rights to the state of California” giving the state ultimate control over where the water goes. This could circumvent centuries of water rights and put many farmers out of business. Senator Hurtado mentions that the lack of water to farmers quickly becomes an issue of food secu-

urity for everyone, not just those in California. Kern County is the third largest food producing county in the world and many rely on the county to produce both fresh and canned foods, as long as there is access to water.

Another major theme of the panel was the importance of the Central Valley--of course for agriculture but not exclusively. Kern County alone produces 70% of the states oil, 53% of the state’s renewable energy, and both Fresno and Bakersfield are two of the top 10 largest cities in the state. Getting water to the Central Valley is not just for agricultural benefit, but also for the benefit of the fastest growing region in California.

Surprisingly, when the crowd was given a chance to ask questions, the major concern was about the oil industry. One farmer stood, thanked the legislators for their work on the 599 Bill, and made a clear point that the oil industry is part of the larger backbone that supports

Kern County. Concerned that the state plans to shut down the fossil fuel industry too fast, he is worried that many civilians and the local government will suffer. Senator Hurtado agreed and spoke how energy and its working community, should be protected as a resource just as much as water.

The bottom line is that everyone deserves to have fresh water in their homes and clean, healthy food on their tables. Senator Hurtado mentioned throughout the meeting that the issues California faces with water today can be framed in many ways. She stated that lack of water is a civil health issue, a food safety issue, and an environmental issue; and beyond that, it’s a climate change issue and an economy issue for many counties. There are many factors that must be considered when working with water on such a scale, and in the past, truly understanding the issues doesn’t usually occur until it’s seen with hindsight. Fortunately, California has the capability to make immense strides and panels like this

one show that people are working to make changes and that legislators are working to keep our best interests in mind in Sacramento.



Aerial photo of the Delta. (Photo: Department of Water Resources)

## The Cattleman's Corner



# Breeding for the Exceptional, or Breeding for Consistency

By Austin Snedden  
Ranching Contributor,  
Valley Ag Voice

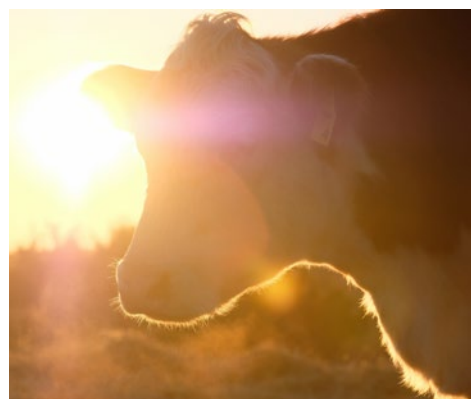
In every Breeding 101 or genetics class in almost every animal agriculture college, academia says, “The next generation is always better.”

Clearly, this statement was made before the origination of the millennial generation (I am allowed to say this because I am a millennial). From the perspective of a cattle breeder, we operate with the goal and expectation that the next generation of cattle will be better than previous generations, but we also have to recognize that new genetic directions are unproven. The multitude of traits that make up a productive animal are sometimes hard to pinpoint, and even if they are identified they can be overlooked when making matings.

Breed associations often find themselves in a delicate balance between valuing the importance of a pedigree and individual performance in that pedigree, while at the same time strongly encouraging generational turnover. The algorithms and format for genetic evaluation will give an unproven heifer better EPD values than a highly proven older cow, not to mention that heifers and heifer’s first progeny will get advantages on performance ratios over the progeny of an older cow that performed the same. Breeders find themselves in a situation where they are encouraged to use the newest thing and disperse the older generations to stay at the forefront of EPD valuation. The risk of this philosophy is that unproven cattle can take us down an unproductive path that we don’t know is unproductive until we are miles down the road. There is a proven history of humans not always making the correct decision when it comes to selecting what the next best thing will be in terms of performance and biology. I think there are two different philosophies in cattle breed-

ing, and most would belong to one or the other philosophy with some being right down the middle. One philosophy is that the goal of a seed stock breeder is to produce the next standout outlier that will leap forward. The other philosophy is that the role of a seed stock breeder is to be a testing ground to select cattle that are problem free and offer a higher level of genetic consistency. The most important traits that benefit the economics of a commercial cow-calf operation are fertility and longevity, and the best way to get fertility and longevity in a herd is by selecting seed stock that has proven fertility and longevity in the pedigree.

Artificial insemination and embryo transfer have created opportunities to access elite genetics rather affordably, but it has also contributed to the rapid propagation of unproven cattle. These technologies have contributed to big advancements, but also large regressions across breeds as the pendulum swings large in terms of the type of cattle and number of progenies. The increase in the role that genetics stored on liquid nitrogen has played in our industry has created a corresponding decrease in the focus and importance that seed stock breed-



Hereford cow in the sunset. (Photo: CCTM / Shutterstock.com)

ers place on fertility and longevity. There is a growing number of pedigrees in major breeds with multiple generations of cattle that have not had a natural calf, and sires that have never performed natural service, yet the commercial producer still needs fertility and longevity to pay ranch bills. Consistency and performance will come from breeders who are making cattle prove themselves for many seasons, while at the same time cautiously adding genetics that offers new performance opportunities.



**SNEDDEN RANCH**  
ANNUAL BULL SALE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
At the Ranch near Maricopa, CA  
SILENT AUCTION OPENS AT 10 A.M.  
Lunch will be Served at 12 Noon  
FIRST SILENT AUCTION LOT CLOSES AT 1 P.M.

Selling 35 Polled & Horned Hereford Yearling Bulls, and Select Commercial, Calving-Ease Red Angus Bulls – ALL BACKED BY A PROVEN COWHERD

The Offering also includes 15 Top-End, Commercial, Open Yearlings Heifers!

PREVIEW THE SALE OFFERING ONLINE  
[WWW.SNEDDENRANCH.COM](http://WWW.SNEDDENRANCH.COM)

Call or Email to Join Our Mailing List

Richard & Susie Snedden  
(661) 747-5646  
richardsus@gmail.com

Austin & Sarah Snedden  
(805) 423-0248  
sneddenranch@gmail.com

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN THE REGISTERED HEREFORD BUSINESS**  
OFFERING A PICK OF THE VERY TOP-END OF OUR FALL 2021 REGISTERED HEIFERS PLUS HEREFORD AND RED ANGUS BULLS BY THESE SIRES AND MORE...



CE	UDDR
0.0	1.20
BW	REA
4.4	.47
WW	MARB
66	.09
YW	BMI\$
108	339
MM	BII\$
30	419
M&G	CHB\$
63	114

**SR BEEF 466 OPTIMAN 1671** AHA P43769882  
Sire: SR BEEF OPTIMAN 1466  
Dam's Sire: SR RW2 OPTIMAN 0659



CE	UDDR
6.6	1.40
BW	REA
1.2	.24
WW	MARB
45	.15
YW	BMI\$
80	393
MM	BII\$
21	461
M&G	CHB\$
44	120

**SR UNDAUNTED 1952** AHA P44110440  
Sire: CHEZ DANTE 652D ET  
Dam's Sire: SR EZ OPTIMAN 1064



CE	UDDR
6.9	1.40
BW	REA
1.7	.12
WW	MARB
50	.13
YW	BMI\$
84	421
MM	BII\$
25	493
M&G	CHB\$
50	106

**CRR C63 IMPACT 870** AHA P43949456  
Sire: SHF IMPACT 001A C63  
Dam's Sire: TH 122 711 VICTOR 719T



CE	UDDR
13	8
BW	STAY
-3.0	12
WW	MARB
55	.62
YW	CW
82	19
Milk	REA
29	.10
ME	FAT
-3	.03

**MCPHEE DONE IT 82** RAAA 3932907  
Sire: Royce's Dun Right 44  
Dam's Sire: Oak Ridge Mission Statement

# Cotton Demand and Profitability

*Continued from PAGE 3* consumers worldwide.

The company is also banking on the fact that “Cotton degrades, polyester doesn’t,” meaning that the environmental impacts of manufacturing cotton is far less harmful than manufacturing polyester products which breakdown into microplastics that in turn contaminate the environment. The company also plans to continue improving the sustainability of cotton grown in the U.S. which will reduce the dependence on cotton from other countries such as China who may be facing reductions in cotton production due to current political embattlements with neighboring countries.

Cotton Incorporated has projected a budget of \$87 million for 2023, which is an improvement over 2021 and 2022’s budget. Funds will be used to ensure that the company is improving pest management, which can be financially harmful to cotton crops, improving seed quality which in turn improves overall product quality for consumers, improving sustainability, technology, and also researching the genomics of cotton more in-depth to continue to provide the best products for consumers.

For a complete recap of this Cotton & Coffee episode with Mr. Worsham, you can head over to CCGGA’s YouTube channel. For more information on the cotton industry and upcoming events, you can visit [CottonBoard.org](http://CottonBoard.org).



# Crops Fallowed, Herds Reduced as Drought Deepens

By Christine Souza, Assistant Editor, Ag Alert

Reprinted with Permission from California Farm Bureau Federation

California farmers and ranchers affected by a third consecutive year of drought and related emergency curtailments of water deliveries have planted fewer acres, fallowed fields or reduced livestock herds to make it through the season.

Siskiyou County rancher Ryan Walker, president of the county's Farm Bureau, said farmers affected by emergency water curtailments—readopted in July by the State Water Resources Control Board—face water shortages and high hay prices, which impact ranchers' ability to maintain livestock herds.

"For the cow guys...with the combination of drought that is preventing people from growing pasture and the very high hay prices and high cull-cow prices, there's just been a flood of good brood cows going to market," Walker said. "Before (the drought) there might have been a dozen guys with over 400 cows or more, but I would expect that our cow numbers are going to be down in the Shasta Valley over 25%, which guys may never build back up."

The challenges for farmers and ranchers in the region represent only a fraction of statewide impacts on agriculture from sustained drought and severe cutbacks in water deliveries.

According to the California Farm Water Coalition, state farmers fallowed 395,100 acres of cropland last year, resulting in more than 14,000 lost farm jobs and \$1.7 billion in revenue losses.

The organization's estimates say this year will be worse, with 594,000 to 691,000 acres fallowed, up to 25,800



California farmers and ranchers have planted fewer acres, fallowed fields or reduced livestock herds to make it through the season. (Photo: CFBF)

lost jobs and nearly \$3.5 billion in economic losses.

In the Scott and Shasta river watersheds, updated drought emergency curtailment regulations were readopted July 29 by the state water board. The continued curtailments were outlined as part of a hydrology update by Jose Ayala, an environmental scientist for the agency, at last week's board meeting in Sacramento.

Emergency curtailment orders for several watersheds, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, stem from Gov. Gavin Newsom's May 10, 2021, drought emergency declaration.

"Water-right holders are conditionally curtailed under the order and are required to coordinate diversions with the Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District and state water board as applicable," Ayala said.

For those relying on the Shasta River side, Walker said, the regulation means higher and higher-priority water

users will be curtailed, and for the Scott River, it means flows are going to drop.

"A lot of people have changed how they're doing things as part of the local cooperative solution to cut water use 30%," Walker said. "Local cooperative solutions have been the one bright spot in the whole regulatory process."

State Water Board Chairman E. Joaquin Esquivel said "our communities are facing multiple emergencies" from both drought and recent wildfires.

Any water-right holders in Siskiyou County who had to evacuate due to the McKinney Fire, Ayala said, may contact state water board staff at their earliest convenience.

Walker said the curtailment's moratorium on open-ditch stock watering is concerning given the fire.

"If we have power outages, which we've had with this fire, how's that going to work with guys that are pumping in order to water stock? There's a lot of uncertainty," he said.

The layer of smoke in the air from the fire, Walker said, dropped triple-digit temperatures to the high 80s, which may help water flow due to less evapotranspiration.

Elsewhere, the water picture in the Russian River watershed in Mendocino and Sonoma counties is being impacted by the late-July approval of a variance by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The variance mandates reduced flows from the Potter Valley Project to preserve cold-water resources for fish on the Eel River.

"This means the water supply available for the water-sharing program and general use by water-rights holders will be significantly reduced," said Mendocino County Farm Bureau Executive Director Devon Boer. "We are expecting both a suspension of the water-shar-

ing program and a significant increase in the number of curtailments for the Upper Russian River."

Depending on anticipated curtailments for the upper Russian River, she said there could be challenges in sizing of later wine varietals or post-harvest irrigation for orchards.

"In the Redwood Valley, this is the second year that the water district has not been able to provide any water to their agricultural customers," Boer said. "For those who don't have any alternative water sources, decisions had to be made to reduce plantings of annual crops, thin fruit on permanent crops such as winegrapes or, if economically viable, haul water in."

For those without a portfolio of water sources, such as use of recycled water, Boer said, "the timing of this year's curtailments will once again prove to be a challenge for retaining the viability of the vines and the quality of the fruit over the next several months."

Given the dire water situation, California Farm Bureau Senior Counsel Chris Scheuring emphasized that the state must respond faster to the drought emergency by accelerating action on water-supply solutions. He said that includes building new water storage, recharging aquifers, expanding desalinization, and undertaking recycling and stormwater capture projects.

"It's been dry for a couple of years in a row. Variable hydrology is something that we can cope better with, with some planning and some execution," Scheuring said. "Climate resiliency is the watchword in so many ways, yet it seems like we're moving awfully slowly in getting some of the known solutions across the finish line."

Water-right holders can learn more about emergency curtailment orders for their watersheds at [WaterBoards.CA.gov/Drought/Regional-Drought-Response/](https://WaterBoards.CA.gov/Drought/Regional-Drought-Response/).

## It's Just Your Size.

Carry cargo, passengers, or somewhere in-between.

**SPRINTER**  
Reliable. Hard working. **Full-sized.**



**METRIS**  
Reliable. Hard working. **Mid-sized.**



Schedule a Test Drive  
**(661) 836-3737**

\* Excludes all options, taxes, title, registration, transportation charge and dealer prep fee. Options shown. Not all options are available in the U.S. For a full offering and pricing information, visit your local Mercedes-Benz Vans dealership. Starting at prices represent gas engine Sprinter models. Delayed availability

**Mercedes-Benz**  
of Bakersfield  
Bakersfield Automall (661) 836-3737





# USDA Announces Its Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement with California

Press Release Provided by U.S. Department of Agriculture

In July, during a visit to the Yolo County Food Bank in Woodland, Calif., Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has signed a cooperative agreement with California under the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). The LFPA is a program authorized through the President's American Rescue Plan, which invested \$400 million to make food more affordable for more Americans and help stabilize agricultural supply chains. Through LFPA, the California Department of Social Services seeks to purchase and distribute locally grown, produced, and processed food from underserved producers. The announcement is part of the Biden Administration's priority to produce more high quality, affordable food, and help lower costs for more Americans.

"Providing access to new markets for more producers and helping more Americans experiencing food insecurity is going to take new partnerships, new innovations, and new ways of thinking – and the best solutions can often be local," said Secretary Vilsack. "This program provides tribes, states, and U.S. territories the ability to work in new and creative ways with their local partners, establishing connections between their producers and underserved communities. The food purchases made through LFPA will provide consistent access to locally and regionally sourced food, helping provide economic stability for farmers, producers, and families, and improve health outcomes through nutrition and increased food security."

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will partner with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) and California Food Banks to purchase

food from local and underserved farmers throughout the state serving approximately 250,000 families and provide outreach and education to the farms.

"Through this innovative program, California will be able to support local and underserved farmers while expanding access to farm-fresh foods for families in need," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "We look forward to working with federal, state and local partners to strengthen the state's food systems and support communities across California."

"This new cooperative agreement will strengthen the resiliency of the local food supply chain to support thousands of California families and farmers facing the challenges of supply chain disruptions and the increasing effects of climate change," U.S. Senator Alex Padilla said. "I look forward to continuing to work with the USDA to build a climate-resilient food system that supports California's local agricultural industry and communities."

The LFPA program is authorized by the American Rescue Plan to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. Through this program, USDA will award up to \$400 million through non-competitive cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments to support local, regional, and underserved producers through the purchase of food produced within the state or within 400 miles of delivery destination.

AMS looks forward to continuing to sign agreements under this innovative program that allows state and tribal governments to procure and distribute local and regional foods and beverages that are healthy, nutritious, and unique to their geographic area.

More information about the program is available on AMS's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program webpage.

## Newsom Warns of Water Woes

*Continued from PAGE 1* Joaquin River Delta, known as the Bay-Delta plan, "describes how the state is going to tell farmers and irrigation districts, some cities and others to stop diverting water under their water rights because a certain amount of the river is off limits to protect fish and water quality in the delta."

The first phase of the Bay-Delta plan, adopted by the state in 2018, establishes water-quality standards and redirects 30% to 50% of "unimpaired flows" in the lower San Joaquin River tributaries—the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced rivers.

Scheuring described the diversion of flows as a regulatory action that restricts the use of water rights. "From the perspective of people whose water will be taken away to service fish populations, which is dubious because you may not bring the fish back, it feels like a water grab," he said.

Thomas Berliner, speaking on behalf of the Merced Irrigation District, said the water board is using its proposed regulation to redistribute water rights, which he said would set a terrible precedent.

"(The regulation) appears to be a very transparent attempt to lower the bar of legal review that would be associated with a regulation rather than going through a quasi-adjudication water rights proceeding," Berliner said. "It suggests that the water board, on the basis of a relatively loose legal threshold, can come in and essentially take away water from one user and provide the



California Governor Gavin Newsom. (Photo: Sheila Fitzgerald / Shutterstock.com)

benefit of it to another user just under the guise of a regulation."

In the months after the state adopted the Bay-Delta plan, more than a dozen lawsuits were filed, including by the California Farm Bureau, water districts and urban water suppliers. Environmental and fishing groups also brought

legal actions. Those representing districts and water-right holders say the plan is an overreach by the state. Environmental groups say it doesn't go far enough to protect fish.

Scheuring said the cases were coordinated, and the matter is ongoing in Sacramento County Superior Court.

Voluntary agreements, which include flow and nonflow measures to address the needs of fish, were promoted by the governor and others as an alternative to the board's flows-only approach and potential lengthy, costly litigation.

Berliner urged more flexibility. He called on the board to consider "voluntary agreements that hopefully could be used to protect the local interests, the river and downstream requirements."

Michael Cooke, director of water resources and regu-



## Free Mulch!

Farm ♦ Business ♦ Home ♦ Garden

## Mulch Can Help So Much!

- Reduces Erosion
- Reduces Overexposure
- Reduces Water Evaporation
- Reduces Overwatering
- Reduces Wilting



## Bakersfield Compost Facility

661-835-8873 ♦ 2601 S Mt Vernon Ave

## Available In Bulk

Tuesday – Saturday ♦ 7 AM – 3:30 PM

latory affairs at Turlock Irrigation District, said, "Both flow and nonflow measures are necessary to achieve (the plan's) stated objectives." The Turlock district jointly operates Don Pedro Reservoir on the Tuolumne River with the Modesto Irrigation District.

Cooke urged that voluntary agreements for the Tuolumne River be included in the implementation regulation's environmental impact report, arguing that "unimpaired flow by itself will not achieve the purpose of the Bay-Delta plan."

John Herrick, general counsel and manager for the South Delta Water Agency, said Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations have led to delta salinity, a major water-quality concern.

"Before the projects were involved, there was more water coming down the San Joaquin River than after the projects," Herrick said. "As we go through this

process, you have to make sure that the people that caused the salinity problem in the south delta do not escape responsibility."

Defenders of Wildlife water policy advisor Ashley Overhouse said the plan "is long overdue" and encouraged the state to move quickly to implement the regulation.

Many anticipate the issue will be battled out in the courts in the coming years.

Stanislaus County farmer Nick Blom, a Modesto Irrigation District board director, said, "Between attorneys, staff and everyone working on this, we're going to make sure that we keep the district whole. If it comes down to a lawsuit, that's what it is. But we're not giving away the farm, that's for sure."

Public comments on the draft to implement the Bay-Delta plan for the lower San Joaquin River tributaries are due by noon Sept. 9.



# DWR Releases Draft Environmental Impact Report for Delta Conveyance Project



A drone aerial view of Bethany Dams and Reservoir, located on the California Aqueduct and downstream from the Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant. (Photo: CA Dept. of Water Resources)

Press Release Provided by California Department of Water Resources

On July 27th the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Draft Environment Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project, marking an important step in evaluating a key strategy to adapt to a changing climate and provide clean, reliable water for future generations.

The release of the Draft EIR gives the public an opportunity to formally weigh in on a proposed infrastructure modernization project that has been significantly changed in response to public comment. The proposal follows Governor Newsom's direction in 2019 to downsize previous concepts for improving Delta conveyance.

"Two out of three Californians rely on the State Water Project for all or part of their water supply," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "Modernizing this infrastructure is essential to adapting to a future that includes more frequent extremes of drought and flood, and

greater water instability."

If the project had been operational during the big storms in October and December of 2021, DWR could have captured and moved about 236,000 acre-feet of water. That is enough for about 2.5 million people for a year. If approved after completion of the environmental review process, the project will also help California manage through periods of severe drought like the one the state is experiencing now.

Nemeth noted that the proposed project has been refined, redesigned and rerouted as a result of public input and the Governor's 2019 direction.

"We took a fresh look at everything. Changing from two tunnels to one opened the door to many creative design and engineering innovations," she said.

California faces a hotter and drier future with more frequent and extreme droughts and floods. Water captured from the Sierra Nevada snowpack will need to be managed and used more efficiently, requiring

investments in water recycling, water storage and clean and sustainable groundwater basins.

The Delta Conveyance Project is intended to help ensure the State Water Project can capture, move, and store water by making the most of extreme storm events that are becoming more frequent with California's changing climate.

The preliminary design of the proposed project and alternatives outlined in the Draft EIR reflect the work of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA), a joint powers authority of local public water agencies participating in the project.

"We brought world class engineering and design creativity to the effort," said DCA's Executive Director Graham Bradner. "We sought input from the community to understand local effects and focused on ways to avoid or minimize issues related to noise, traffic, power, aesthetics, boating and waterways, land disturbance and the overall project footprint."

The Draft EIR was prepared by DWR as the lead agency to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act by evaluating a range of alternatives to the proposed project and disclosing potential environmental effects of the proposed project and alternatives, and associated mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts. No decisions will be made on whether to approve the project until the conclusion of the environmental review process, after consideration of public comments submitted on the Draft EIR and issuances of a Final EIR. At that time, DWR will determine whether to approve the proposed project an alternative or no project.

Everyone is invited to visit the Draft EIR website to access the document and accompanying informational materials and learn more about the proposed project and the public review process, including public hearing details and commenting opportunities.

**What:** Public comment period for the Delta Conveyance Project Draft EIR

**When:** 90-day comment period from July 27, 2022 through October 27, 2022

**Where:** Review Online at [DeltaConveyanceProject.com](https://DeltaConveyanceProject.com)

**Review In-Person:** A digital copy of the Draft EIR is available at the following locations:

- **DWR Office:** 3500 Industrial Blvd., Room 117, West Sacramento, CA 95691
- **Libraries:** A full list of libraries across the state where the public can access the Draft EIR can be found

**How:** Members of the public can submit comments on the Draft EIR in the following ways:

- **Email:** [DeltaConveyanceComments@Water.CA.gov](mailto:DeltaConveyanceComments@Water.CA.gov)
- **Online:** [DeltaConveyanceProject.com](https://DeltaConveyanceProject.com)
- **Mail:** Department of Water Resources, Attn: Delta Conveyance Office, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
- **Virtual Public Hearing:** Provide verbal public comment at a virtual public hearing
  - Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
  - Thursday, September 22, 2022, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
  - Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**About the Delta Conveyance Project:** The purpose of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project is to modernize the aging State Water Project (SWP) water transport infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect the reliability of this important water supply. In pursuing this project, DWR seeks to address the effects of sea level rise and climate change, minimize water supply disruption caused by an earthquake and provide operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions in the Delta. The proposed Delta Conveyance Project would modernize the infrastructure used to move water through the Delta by adding new facilities in the north Delta to divert water and convey it through a tunnel to the SWP distribution facilities in the southern Delta. If approved, these infrastructure updates would help ensure climate resiliency and improve the reliability of the SWP. As the state's largest source of safe, affordable, and clean water, the SWP serves 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland, and supports local water supply projects, such as local storage, recycling, groundwater recharge and water quality management.

## THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS EXPERTS.

We specialize in helping our clients cut through the red tape of government!

### Land Use Consulting Government Relations & Public Affairs

We will help you with all of your Government Affairs needs. From violation notices to advocating on issues that impact your business.



Consulting-CommonSense.com • 661.203.1838

## USDA Publishes Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards Proposed Rule

Press Release Provided by U.S. Department of Agriculture

On August 5th, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) previewed the Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) proposed rule in the Federal Register. With this publication, USDA proposes requirements for organic poultry and livestock living conditions, care, transport, and slaughter.

This new proposed OLPS rule would change the USDA organic regulations to promote a fairer and more competitive market for organic livestock producers, by making sure that certified USDA livestock products are produced to the same consistent standard.

"This proposed Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards rule demonstrates USDA's strong commitment to America's organic producers," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We encourage producers, processors, and consumers to submit written comments about the rule so that we can work together to create a fairer, more competitive, and transparent food system."

"This rulemaking is an opportunity to ensure consumers'

expectations align with the enforced organic standards, building trust across the supply chain and leveling the playing field for producers," said Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. "With this proposed rule, USDA is seeking to establish and clarify clear standards for organic livestock and poultry production."

When finalized, USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) will oversee the rule's implementation. NOP develops and enforces clear standards to give farmers, ranchers, and businesses a level playing field. In partnership with USDA-accredited certifying agents, NOP's oversight supports growth of the organic market, including farmers and businesses interested in transitioning to organic.

The written comment period will close at midnight 60 days from publication. NOP will also host a public webinar listening session on August 19, 2022, to hear oral comments on the proposed rule.

More information about the proposed Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards rule and how to make comments is available on the AMS website.



# DWR Launches New Web-based Mapping Tool Showing Nearly 3,000 Groundwater Sustainability Projects

Press Release Provided by CA Dept. of Water Resources

A new web-based tool developed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will allow the public to explore thousands of groundwater projects across California to get a better understanding of one of the state’s most critical water supply resources. The virtual mapping tool is part of the State’s ongoing commitment to develop new, innovative solutions to provide information and resources to address the effects of California’s changing climate and ongoing severe drought.

The California Groundwater Projects Tool is an interactive mapping tool that allows users to explore a database of nearly 3,000 projects initiated in California over the last decade to protect groundwater resources. The mapping tool features projects that were funded by DWR and external sources such as federal or local funding. The database will include information about project benefits and effectiveness in relation to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Users can also access more than 20 project case studies and get guidance on how to measure and track benefits of projects following construction.

“Dry conditions continue to test our communities statewide, especially those that rely heavily on groundwater for multiple needs,” said DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Deputy Director Paul Gosselin. “This new mapping tool will allow users to view and access information on thousands of groundwater projects being implemented within their local communities and throughout the state. We are encouraged and inspired that groundwater managers and communities are advancing solutions and planning projects within their basins to help achieve groundwater sustainability.”

The web-based tool is intended for anyone interested in learning more about state and local investments in groundwater sustainability and the return on those investments. This information may be considered useful to groundwater sustainability agencies, water agencies, organizations, legislators, Tribes, and the general public.

Groundwater is a critical component of California’s water supply, accounting for 40 percent in a normal year and up to 60 percent during dry conditions. Nearly 85 percent of all Californians rely on groundwater for at least some portion of their water supply. The state is currently seeing the adverse impacts of decades of over pumping groundwater basins including dry drinking water wells and land subsidence. This is exacerbated with climate change and the current prolonged extreme drought

conditions. Grant funding for sustainable groundwater management projects has been critical to helping local water agencies address these impacts. The new tool will track the progress of these projects and inform state and local agencies on the types of projects that are making the most positive impacts.

DWR has prioritized developing new web-based tools and resources for well owners, groundwater users and local drought managers to help them prepare for current and future drought conditions. Last month, DWR, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, launched a new Dry Well Susceptibility Tool that identifies areas in groundwater basins across the state that may be prone to domestic well outages. This mapping tool has been developed as a resource for local monitoring and early warning to help increase general awareness of where domestic water wells may be susceptible to going dry to help communities proactively plan for potential well outages.

To help Tribes and underrepresented communities who are experiencing difficulties implementing SGMA in their region, DWR is also offering support through the Underrepresented Community Technical Assistance program. The program offers free needs assessments and preliminary engineering reports to help communities identify needs and develop potential groundwater projects for future funding.

For more information on state drought resources, visit the following websites:

- **Dry Well Reporting System** – The State’s resource to report and track dry wells
- **Dry Well Susceptibility Tool** – Forecasting tool used to plan for well outages before they occur
- **California’s Groundwater Live** – The latest groundwater conditions, including groundwater levels, well infrastructure and land subsidence data
- **California Water Watch** – The latest water conditions, including snowpack, precipitation, groundwater, and reservoir data
- **Drought.ca.gov** – The latest on California’s drought conditions and available assistance resources

Individuals with failing household drinking water wells should submit a report to [MyDryWell.Water.CA.gov](http://MyDryWell.Water.CA.gov) and contact their county’s Office of Emergency Services for immediate assistance and emergency response to urgent drinking water needs. These contacts can then facilitate requests for state funding.



DWR engineering geologist measures groundwater levels at designated monitoring wells in Yolo County. (Photo: CA Dept. of Water Resources)

## SERVING CALIFORNIA GROWERS SINCE 1992

### DUST CONTROL

- MAG CHLORIDE
- OIL BASED PRODUCTS
- SC250 - SC800 - SS1H
- PENNZSUPPRESS
- LIGNOSULFONATE
- TERRALIG FS

### Contact American Ag Today

**661-833-8311 | 844-299-8311 (Toll-Free)**  
**Office@AmericanAgInc.com**  
**AmericanAgInc.com**

## BRAND MANAGEMENT & PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

# BE BOLD

## LEAVE YOUR MARK ON EVERYTHING\*

# MARCOMBRANDING.COM

We get it. Done.™

\*Even if your name isn't Mark.



# State Invests \$1.78 Million to Fund Projects that Promote Safer, More Sustainable Pest Management

Press Release by California Department of Pesticide Regulation

On August 11th, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) announced \$1.78 million in Alliance Grants for five projects that aim to increase the speed and the scale at which safer, more sustainable pest management practices are adopted across the state. Each project will promote innovative Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems and practices in agricultural, urban or wildland settings.

“Alliance Grants directly support the department’s mission to foster methods and tools to reduce reliance on pesticides and their impact on human health and the environment,” said DPR Director Julie Henderson. “We are excited by the potential of these five projects and will continue to invest in projects that promote the development and use of safer, more sustainable pest management.”

DPR’s Alliance Grants Program funds projects that promote IPM, an approach that uses the least-toxic, effective method to solve pest problems. Since 2007, DPR has awarded more than \$7.8 million in Alliance Grants. The enhanced funds for the 2022 DPR Grants Programs cycle were allocated by the 2021-22 state budget and represent a more than five-fold increase in available funding opportunities compared to historical

funding levels.

Alliance Grants are awarded to groups of experts and partners, also referred to as Alliance Teams, who work collaboratively to accomplish the goals of a given project.

## Alliance projects funded for agricultural pest management:

- Promoting IPM practices that incorporate natural-enemy habitat to control pest insects. This project’s Alliance Team will engage in outreach with producers and agricultural professionals through videos that feature producers and researchers, field days and webinars, which will include an online continuing education course for pesticide applicators. This project will be led by Jo Ann Baumgartner at Wild Farm Alliance, a local non-profit conservation group in Watsonville.
- Promoting the adoption of UV-C light, a non-chemical control, by strawberry growers on California strawberry farms. This project’s Alliance Team will showcase UV-C light as an effective, non-chemical alternative to chemical pesticides for controlling mites, mildew and mold. This project will be led by Dr. John Lin at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

## Alliance projects funded for urban pest management:

- Addressing management of Argentine ants, the most common nuisance ant for which pesticide treatments are applied in urban environments. The Alliance Team for this project is focused on the implementation and promotion of a low-impact IPM approach for pest management professionals that uses pheromone attractants during initial treatment visits and targeted chemical baiting for maintenance visits, to reduce reliance on repeated use of insecticide sprays. This project will be led by Dr. Dong-Hwan Choe at University of California, Riverside.

- Home visits to provide IPM education and intervention to disadvantaged communities in South Los Angeles. To improve the health and well-being of South Los Angeles residents, this project’s Alliance Team will make home visits to each family that enrolls in the program. The team will assess housing conditions; provide IPM interventions, including caulking cracks and sealing large holes; and offer other IPM education on reducing pest infestations. This project will be led by Nancy Ibrahim at Esperanza Community Housing.

## Alliance projects funded for wildlands pest management:

- Combining manual removal of invasive primrose with native plant restoration through a private property owner incentive program, and an AmeriCorps part-



Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*). (Photo: Javier Chivone / Shutterstock)

nership that will provide education and outreach to the community. The Alliance Team for this project is focused on management of creeping water primrose, an invasive aquatic plant, that is usually controlled with chemical pesticides. This project’s combination of IPM methods will improve water quality, protect fish habitat and enhance flood protection and prevention, as well as create strong and sustainable natural vegetative wetland communities around the shores of Clear Lake, California. This project will be led by Angela De Palma-Dow at the Lake County Watershed Protection District.

For details about past recipients of DPR’s Grants Programs, please visit our department’s Pest Management Grants webpage.

# Registration and Call for Posters Underway for 30th Annual FREP/WPH Nutrient Management Conference

Press Release by California Department of Food and Agriculture

Registration is now open for the 30th annual Nutrient Management Conference, hosted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s (CDFA) Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) and Western Plant Health (WPH). This year’s conference will be held at the Wyndham Visalia, in Visalia, CA, October 26-27, 2022, and includes a tour of the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Parlier, CA, on October 25.

The Nutrient Management Conference brings together industry professionals and academic researchers to learn about and share the latest research and innovative management practices for fertilizing materials. This year’s conference agenda includes information on nitrogen removal coefficients; nitrogen and irrigation management in annuals and perennials; biosolids in small grains; the nitrogen mineralization model; CropManage; nitrogen management training for

crop advisors; rising input costs; and groundwater protection targets.

Early conference registration (through October 14) is \$200 and currently enrolled students pay \$130. Late registration fees (after October 14) are \$230 and \$140 for students. Continuing education units (CEUs) for Certified Crop Advisers and Self-Certified Growers will be available for the tour and conference.

Upon registration, conference attendees can sign-up for the free farm tour on October 25 (limited space available). Tour attendees will visit agricultural research plots at the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center that demonstrate efficient irrigation and nutrient management practices across multiple cropping systems.

A “poster session” will be held the evening of October 26 for undergraduate and graduate students, researchers and industry members to present their ongoing research, outreach or demonstration proj-

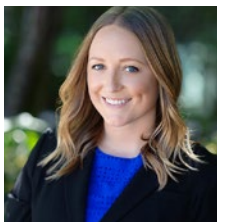
ects in California related to irrigation and nutrient management. FREP does not accept abstracts/posters related to proprietary product development, testing or promotions. To present a poster at the conference, submit abstract(s) to [FREP@CDFA.CA.gov](mailto:FREP@CDFA.CA.gov) by October 14, 2022. One presenter per accepted abstract will receive free conference registration.

To view the agenda, call for posters and register online, visit the conference website: [CDFA.CA.gov/Go/FREPCONference](https://CDFA.CA.gov/Go/FREPCONference). Conference protocols will adhere to state and local health guidelines. For more information, please contact FREP staff at [FREP@CDFA.CA.gov](mailto:FREP@CDFA.CA.gov) or (916) 900-5022.

For over 25 years, FREP has funded more than 250 research projects focusing on nutrient and irrigation management in California cropping systems. For more information, visit the FREP project database of completed and ongoing projects at: [CDFA.CA.gov/IS/FFLDRS/FREP/Research.html](https://CDFA.CA.gov/IS/FFLDRS/FREP/Research.html).

# CA Association of Winegrape Growers Announces Natalie Collins as Interim President

Press Release by CA Association of Winegrape Growers



CAWG President Natalie Collins.

On July 27th, California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) Chairwoman Tom Slater announced the appointment of Natalie Collins as interim president. She replaces John Aguirre who retired after twelve years of service.

“CAWG is very happy to have Natalie in this role,” Slater said. “She has been a part of the CAWG family for many years, and her insight and dedication to the association are well received. The CAWG board of directors looks forward to working with Natalie on all issues and appreciates her contributions toward the future success of our membership.”

Collins said, “I am honored to serve as interim president and humbled by this opportunity. I look forward to continuing the legacy of strong leadership and advocacy on behalf of our growers. Winegrape growers in California today are facing unprecedented challenges, and I take seriously CAWG’s leadership role in this iconic industry.”

Collins joined CAWG in 2015 as the director of member relations and quickly established herself as integral to the advancement of the association. She is a graduate of California State University, Chico with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural business and minors in organizational communications and business administration. Prior to joining CAWG, she was a program director for the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation and a 2015 graduate of the Leadership Farm Bureau program.

Natalie resides in Lodi with her husband Kyle and their two children.

(661) 758-6484
HollowayAg.com/90years

## Bring Your Soils Back to Life

Turn to the Valley’s trusted soil experts for your post-harvest gypsum, amendments and Whole Orchard Recycling services





**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022**  
**Sponsorship & Team Registrations at:**  
**VictoryFS.org/SFV2022**



**BECAUSE EVERY CHILD DESERVES VICTORY...**  
Victory Family Services supports children and foster families through continuous training, education, and development, because every child deserves Victory.

**Agriculture Farm Laboratory**

*Continued from PAGE 1* students some of the most advanced irrigation systems and practices such as the use of subsurface drip and “on demand” seep tape as well as the use of established furrow and sprinkler systems.

Looking toward the future, we plan to continue to modernize the farm and keep up with fast changing industry standards for the better education of our students. For example, plants science needs to purchase mechanized

vegetable planters for nursery propagated plants, GPS directed fertilizer applicators, and robotic cultivators for our row crops. Also, animal science has plans to add a mobile hen house for the pasture where poultry can feed and lay eggs in a cage free environment, a manure collection and composting site so that organic fertilizer can be used as a regenerative product for pasture production, and to modernize the pre-existing barn with an embryology and artificial insemination laboratory where students can study animal reproduction in more detail.

If you would like more information visit [BakersfieldCollege.edu/Agriculture](http://BakersfieldCollege.edu/Agriculture).



Olive orchard (left) and new vineyard (right) showing latest trellis systems. (Photo: Bakersfield College)



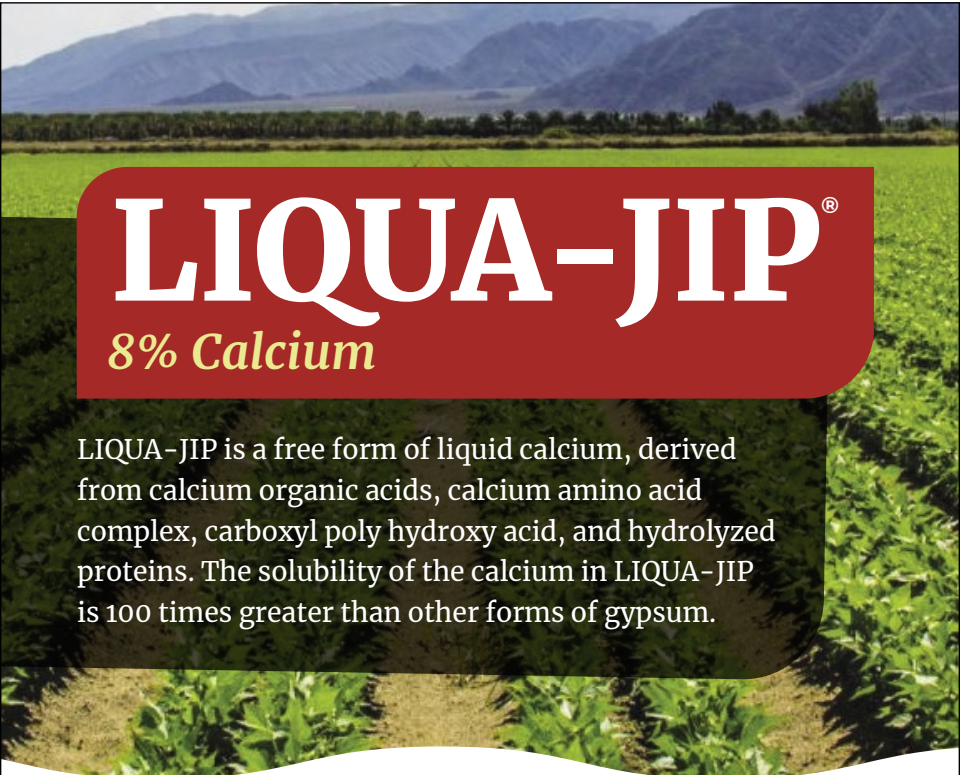
Digital weather and soil data station for use with automated irrigation system. (Photo: Bakersfield College)



Animal Science. (Photo: Bakersfield College)



Automated irrigation control station. (Photo: Bakersfield College)



**LIQUA-JIP®**  
**8% Calcium**

LIQUA-JIP is a free form of liquid calcium, derived from calcium organic acids, calcium amino acid complex, carboxyl poly hydroxy acid, and hydrolyzed proteins. The solubility of the calcium in LIQUA-JIP is 100 times greater than other forms of gypsum.

**Maintaining Soil Cation Balance**

- Provides high concentrations of calcium (essential for adding solidity to nut crops)
- Helps displace sodium ions; aiding to leach away excess salts from roots
- Replaces dry gypsum application, easily applied through irrigation, reducing costly application labor
- No concerns of clogging filters, emitters or nozzles
- No settling of product, as LIQUA-JIP stays in solution
- Helps strengthen root systems
- Helps water penetration
- Improves soil texture and flocculation
- Made in CA and can be delivered quickly



**661-327-9604 | 800-542-6664 CA Only**  
[WesternNutrientsCorp.com](http://WesternNutrientsCorp.com)

Western Nutrients Corporation has been developing and manufacturing high quality fertilizer, micronutrients and plant foods for commercial agriculture, horticulture, golf courses, and lawn & garden use since 1984. We guarantee quality and the ability to ship the best products in their class at competitive prices world wide.





## Nominations are Now Open!

### Almond Achievement Award and Almond Technical Achievement Award

Application Deadline:  
October 26, 2022

#### Almond Achievement Award

This award recognizes an industry member who has added value through long-term service for the betterment of the California almond industry.

##### Requirements:

- Be an individual with long-standing and direct involvement with the California almond industry.
- Demonstrate lasting impact on, and commitment to, the California almond industry.

Scan the QR code  
to nominate an  
almond industry  
professional



#### Almond Technical Achievement Award

This award recognizes an industry or allied industry member who has contributed a significant technical advancement for the betterment of the California almond industry through research, innovation or facilitated adoption of practices.

##### Requirements:

- Has contributed significant research, facilitated an innovative practice, or assisted in the adoption of a practice for the betterment of the industry.
- May be an individual with direct or indirect involvement with the California almond industry.

Scan the QR code  
to nominate an  
almond industry  
professional





# Grower Assessment Rate for 2022 Harvest

Press Release by California Association of Winegrape Growers

In July the Pierce's Disease / Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Board (PD/GWSS Board) voted to set the grower assessment rate in support of the Pierce's Disease Control Program (Program) at \$1.25 per \$1,000 of crop value for the 2022 harvest. This assessment provides vital funding for research on GWSS and other designated vineyard pests and for research on developing crop resistance to PD.

"CAWG fully supports this important program and we thank growers for their funding of the program," said Tom Slater, Chair of the California Association of Winegrape Growers. "Inflation has increased costs of every aspect of our industry which includes research and costs of the Pierce's Disease Control Program. CAWG appreciates the volunteer work of the PD/GWSS Board members, who represent the industry. Their due diligence, including choosing to invest in a science audit, helps contain costs and assure our assessment dollars are spent wisely."

"Wine Institute commends the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board and staff for their decades of work to protect California's vineyards from invasive pests and diseases," said Robert P. Koch, President & CEO of Wine Institute. "This commitment to research will continue to provide significant benefits to our wine communities."

In considering the 2022 rate adjustment, the PD/GWSS Board sought sufficient funds to support testing of clean plant material at UC Davis and an audit by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). NAS will create an interdisciplinary committee to assess the current struggles facing the California wine grape industry in controlling grapevine viruses, with a specific focus on Grapevine red blotch virus and Grapevine leafroll associated virus type 3.

The committee will review the current and recent research activities of the PD/GWSS Board, and help direct a future funding approach to address the knowledge and management gaps required to minimize the spread of, and economic losses due to these viruses.

The committee will also identify ways in which the PD/GWSS Board can draw from a wider breadth of researchers and utilize cutting edge genetic tools and platforms to combat these virus problems.

Over the 21-year history of the program, the assessment has ranged from a high of \$3.00 in 2001 to a low of \$0.75 in 2015. The average annual harvest assessment is \$1.40. The assessment was \$1.00 for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 harvests. The 2022 harvest assessment will provide an estimated \$3.5 million in funding.

Since 2019, the PD/GWSS Board has committed more than \$11 million to research that benefits vineyard health. Below are a few examples of the outcomes of that research:

- Discovery of potential biological control of PD using *Paraburkholderia phytofirmans* by Steven Lindow at UC Berkeley. The Board funded a new project this year at UC Davis to assess efficacy and compare with other biological control PD control tools, with the goal to produce data that would help directly lead to commercialization.
- The recent successful laboratory use and publication of CRISPR/Cas9 genetic technology in GWSS through work at UC Riverside, which has the potential to revolutionize PD vector control by making GWSS unable to vector PD.
- Improved understanding of the effects of grapevine red blotch on vine physiology and wine composition through recent work at UC Davis.
- Improved understanding and communication of research-based control measures for Pierce's disease as well as Board-designated viral diseases (red blotch, leafroll and fan leaf) through work at UC Cooperative Extension, Cornell University, and UC Berkeley.

The Program has also had great success in treatment of GWSS in rural, suburban and urban settings. This includes nursery treatments, area wide management and the ongoing treatment for GWSS in residential Vacaville.

A recent study led at UC Cooperative Extension, Kern County, found that Program-led efforts in area wide management of GWSS in the southern San Joaquin Valley have been a success and a good model for disease control.

## NGFA Commends Senate for Passing WRDA 2022



Lower Monument Dam on the Snake River in Washington. (Photo: David R.H. / Shutterstock.com)

Source: National Grain and Feed Association

On July 28th, the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) commended the Senate for passing by 93-1 the Waterways Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022, which includes important provisions for modernizing the U.S. waterways infrastructure.

Building on the progress of WRDA 2020, Section 103 of the Senate's WRDA 2022 amends the cost-share for inland waterway projects to 75 percent general Treasury funds and 25 percent from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

"This permanent cost-share change would expedite the modernization of U.S. inland waterways and bolster the ability of NGFA members to fulfill their role in the agricultural value chain to serve American farmers and domestic and global customers," NGFA President and CEO Mike Seyfert said.

House and Senate lawmakers must conference and pass WRDA 2022 before it can be signed into law. NGFA also emphasized that a final WRDA bill should maintain navigational access to the lower Snake River dams (LSRDs).

"A final WRDA 2022 should neither authorize nor pave the way for the breach or removal of dams in the Columbia-Snake River System, which is the third largest grain export corridor in the world and is crucial to American agriculture's global competitiveness," Seyfert said.

Congress has passed a WRDA every two years since 2014. The legislation provides stakeholders with the opportunity to address important navigation, ecosystem, and flood protection issues critical to American industries and communities.



**No DEF!**



**T4.110F LPC/ROPS**

**The Leading Vineyard Tractor**



**Berchtold.com**

**3000 Pegasus Dr.  
Bakersfield, CA 93308**

**661-323-7817**

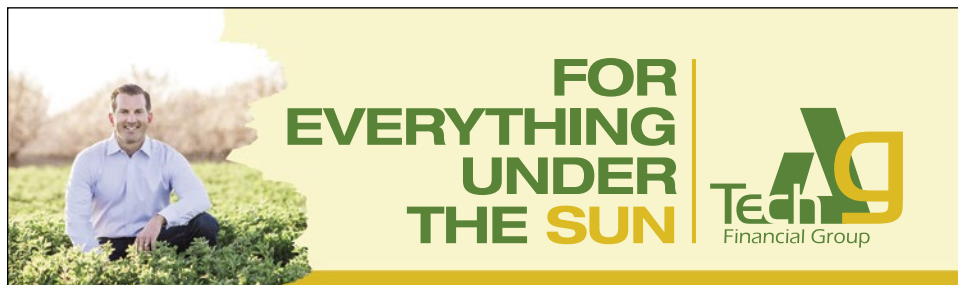
**Kern County's Equipment Dealer Since 1910.**

# There's a new outlaw in town.



Tune in on Bakersfield's newest country station for ag news and the best country from 90's to now.





## MORGAN HOUCHIN

TechAg Financial Group, Inc.  
3430 Unicorn Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308

CA Broker DRE No. 01865336

Mob: 661-477-3669 | Off: 661-695-6500 | eFax: 661-384-6168  
MHouchin@TechAg.com | TechAgFinancial.com

## FEATURED LISTING



286.69 +/- Acres of Almonds in Semitropic Water Storage District  
Price: \$6,880,560.00 (\$23,983 per acre)



Hosted by: Morgan Houchin & John Moore

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT US ONLINE AT [TECHAGFINANCIAL.COM](https://www.techagfinancial.com)

follow @techagfinancial



Podcast available on



# CDFA Announces Vacancies on California Citrus Advisory Committee

*Press Release by California Department of Food and Agriculture*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is announcing vacancies on the California Citrus Advisory Committee (CCAC).

The committee advises the CDFA secretary on all matters pertaining to the California Citrus Program, which includes the implementation of an annual maturity inspection program, as well as a freeze inspection program should it become necessary. This committee also oversees citrus crop and acreage surveys provided by the California Agricultural Statistics Services.

The committee is composed of individuals who are producers and handlers of navel and Valencia oranges, lemons and mandarins. Current vacancies include two Producer positions representing lemons, one of which must be engaged in production in Ventura County; one

Producer position representing navel or Valencia oranges; and one Producer position representing mandarins.

The term of office for committee members is two years. Members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary travel expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Human Resources.

Individuals interested in being considered for an appointment should complete the Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire available at [CDFA.CA.gov/IS/I\\_&\\_C/PDFs/CCAC-PMAQ-Original.pdf](https://CDFA.CA.gov/IS/I_&_C/PDFs/CCAC-PMAQ-Original.pdf) and obtain a letter of recommendation from an industry member. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

Applications should be sent to Sarah Cardoni, CDFA Inspection and Compliance Branch, 1220 'N' Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or via e-mail to [Sarah.Cardoni@CDFA.CA.gov](mailto:Sarah.Cardoni@CDFA.CA.gov).

# CDFA Announces Vacancies on Standardization Advisory Committee

*Press Release by California Department of Food and Agriculture*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is announcing vacancies on the Standardization Advisory Committee (STDZ).

STDZ advises the CDFA secretary on all matters pertaining to the Standardization Program, as well as reviewing proposed regulations and making recommendations concerning assessment rates, fees to provide adequate inspection services and the annual budget.

The committee is composed of individuals who have a financial interest, either personal or through their employment, in a commodity under purview of the Standardization Program. Current committee vacancies are for one position representing oranges, other citrus or table grapes; one position representing a fresh fruit other than oranges, other citrus and table grapes; four positions representing broccoli, tomatoes or lettuce; one

position representing a vegetable other than broccoli, tomatoes and lettuce; and one position representing any other commodity not previously mentioned.

The term of office for committee members is two years. Members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Human Resources.

Individuals interested in being considered for an appointment should complete the Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire (PMAQ) available at [CDFA.CA.gov/IS/I\\_&\\_C/PDFs/STDZ\\_PMAQ.pdf](https://CDFA.CA.gov/IS/I_&_C/PDFs/STDZ_PMAQ.pdf) and obtain a letter of recommendation from an industry member. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

Applications should be sent to Sarah Cardoni, CDFA Inspection and Compliance Branch, 1220 'N' Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or via e-mail to [Sarah.Cardoni@CDFA.CA.gov](mailto:Sarah.Cardoni@CDFA.CA.gov).

# BBC's "The Green Planet" Spotlights California's Almond Orchards



*Titlescreen for BBC's "The Green Planet" docuseries. (Photo: BBC)*

*Press Release Provided by Almond Board of California*

The Almond Board of California congratulates Sir David Attenborough and BBC's *The Green Planet* team

for a vibrant, beautifully produced docuseries about the complexities and surprisingly dramatic lives of plants. We appreciate their striking depictions of the interwoven nature of plant life, and all life on Earth, and their message that all of us need to protect the health and diversity of plant life for future generations.

We are honored that Sir David and his team highlighted California's almonds orchards in their fifth and final episode, "Human Worlds," looking at humans' interactions with plants. It aired in prime time on PBS on Aug. 3 and the episode included segments delving into how almond farmers are playing a part in safeguarding the planet's health and biodiversity. We are pleased they chose an almond farmer, Christine Gemperle of Gemperle Family Farms in Turlock, to help conclude the series by emphasizing one of her guiding principles and one of the messages of the docuseries: "It's about finding balance," she said.



# NGFA Supports Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act Introduced in the House

Source: National Grain and Feed Association

On August 2nd, the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) commended House Transportation and Infrastructure Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee Chairman Donald Payne Jr., D-N.J., for introducing a bill to reauthorize the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) and help address insufficient, unreliable freight rail service for the U.S. agricultural value chain.

NGFA also thanked House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., House Agriculture Chairman David Scott, D-Ga., and House Agriculture Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee Chairman Jim Costa, D-Calif., for co-sponsoring the bill.

The most recent STB Reauthorization expired almost two years ago. The Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act, introduced in the House today, includes several updates that would provide fairer treatment for agricultural shippers.

“NGFA members appreciate Chairman Payne, Chairman DeFazio, Chairman Scott and Chairman Costa for their leadership in responding to severe rail service issues that have caused supply chain disruptions, endangered the delivery of feed to livestock, led to grain processing facilities slowing and shutting down, and negatively impacted U.S. grain exports,” NGFA President and CEO Mike Seyfert said. “The Freight

Rail Shipping Fair Market Act would bolster the STB’s existing authority to regulate railcar use by authorizing shippers to charge railroads demurrage to incentivize them to perform in the same way railroads incentivize their customers. The bill also would establish specific criteria for the STB to consider when determining whether a railroad is meeting its common carrier obligation to provide rail service. If the STB determined a carrier was not meeting its common carrier obligation, the bill would empower the STB to prescribe reasonable transit or cycle times or other service standards consistent with the needs and requirements of the shipper making the request. These policy measures, and several others included in this bill, are necessary to improve rail service for agricultural shippers.”

NGFA is working with other members of the Agricultural Transportation Working Group (ATWG) to promote approval of the bill. In a letter to Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves, R-Mo., in support of the legislation, NGFA and 88 other ATWG members outlined sections of the bill that would foster more competition in the freight rail system.

“With fall harvest approaching, agricultural stakeholders need our partners in freight rail to be successful in delivering adequate and resilient service,” the letter states. “We endorse the prompt consideration and approval of the [bill] which includes several sensible and necessary policy measures to improve rail service and level the playing field for agricultural shippers.”

# National Nutrition Strategy, White House Nutrition Conference

Press Release Provided by International Fresh Produce Association

Recently the International Fresh Produce Association submitted an 8-point plan of recommendations illustrating how fresh fruits and vegetables must be an integral part of the U.S. nutrition security blueprint to be unveiled at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in September.

“IFPA and its Board of Directors believe our nation’s overweight and obesity epidemic cannot be reversed without a bold, targeted, systemic approach – a ‘fruit and vegetable nutrition moonshot’ by 2030 - to increase Americans’ fruit and vegetable consumption,” said IFPA CEO Cathy Burns. “Now is the time to prioritize nutrition security for everyone. For fresh produce, there are barriers to that becoming a reality - some visible, some invisible - but overcoming all of them is why IFPA exists.”

- Specifically, IFPA’s recommendations call for:
- Embedding Produce Prescriptions as a covered benefit within the health system.
  - Embedding a dedicated fruit and vegetable benefit within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
  - Expanding the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) to all elementary schools that qualify under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), and work towards expanding program to all low-income middle and high schools.
  - Recalibrating and modernizing USDA purchasing programs to address nutrition insecurity and reach additional communities and nonprofit entities.
  - Promoting nutrition clarity in food labeling of fruits

- Financially incentivizing fruit and vegetables for all Americans.
  - Establishing a Cabinet-level national Director of Food and Nutrition to coordinate food and nutrition security research across governmental departments.
  - Collecting and analyzing purchasing data from all federal feeding and nutrition programs as a mechanism to measure alignment with, and progress towards, achieving nutrition security
- “This is an exciting time for our industry, as there is a lot of momentum around fruits and vegetables as the solution to diet-related disease,” said IFPA Vice President of Nutrition & Health Mollie Van Lieu. “Systemic, scalable policy and programs are how we will embed and institutionalize the principle of ‘millions of mouths at a time’ and achieve the federal government’s dietary guidance to make half the plate fruits and vegetables.”
- With nutrition policy as one of IFPA’s priority issues, throughout 2022, the organization has been very active on topics such as expansion of the fruit and vegetable cash-value benefit in WIC, commenting on the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, greater prioritization of nutrition policy, and advocating for pro-nutrition and -produce legislation among other areas.
- The association remains steadfastly committed to collaborating with policymakers to aggressively prioritize nutrition policies that improve dietary quality for every citizen.

# VALLEY PACIFIC



**Delivered Fuels | Lubricants | CFN Cardlock**

*We proudly sell products from these brands and more!*



## We Fuel California

**Family Owned & Locally Managed Since 1947**

9521 Enos Lane Bakersfield, CA 93314  
(661)746-7737 | [www.ValleyPacific.com](http://www.ValleyPacific.com)



**For more information on growing for JSS Almonds contact us at:**  
**Daniel Palla / Grower Relations Manager**  
**(661) 345-6613 / [daniel@jssalmonds.com](mailto:daniel@jssalmonds.com)**  
**[www.jssalmonds.com](http://www.jssalmonds.com)**

---

5600 Norris Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308  
661-328-5755





# We do IT better when we do IT together.

## Managed IT Service

Managed IT is quickly becoming popular among all industries. You pay a low, fixed monthly retainer to ensure networks, WiFi connections, servers, and backups are all working.

## Demand Performance

Faster internet and hardware upgrades not making a difference? Don't build your network on a poorly performing infrastructure. Demand Performance. We build better and faster networks.

## Advanced Phone Systems

Offering the most advanced wireless phone systems and solutions to make life easier and more efficient. Our Voice-Over IP solutions empower you to streamline communications fast.

## Backups, Security + More!

Automated backups to full-business continuity services, we ensure the best solution for your organization, keeping resilience and cost in mind. Offering data backups, security, and much more!

# COMM<sup>W</sup>ORLD

Your dedicated IT and Communication Partner

Managed IT  
Demand Performance  
Phone Systems  
Data Security  
Cloud Services  
Audio & Visual  
Structured Cabling

**Contact us today to find out more about our services!**

**MyCommWorld.com**

**4600 Ashe Road #302, Bakersfield (661) 833-6361**



# Hon Hai (Foxconn) and Monarch Tractor to Build Next-generation AgTech Equipment

Press Release Provided by Monarch Tractor

Hon Hai Technology Group (“Foxconn”)(TWSE:2317) today announced the signing of a contract manufacturing agreement (CMA) with Zimeno Inc. DBA Monarch Tractor (“Monarch Tractor”) to build next-generation agricultural equipment and battery packs at the Foxconn Ohio facility.

“Leveraging Foxconn’s manufacturing strengths, worldwide network of industry leaders and supply partners, and our new partnership with Monarch Tractor, Foxconn is positioned and eager to contribute to the ongoing and future success of Monarch Tractor, its products and its customers,” said Young Liu, Chairman of Hon Hai Technology Group. “This partnership reflects Foxconn’s growing center of gravity for autonomous electric vehicle production and the potential that can emerge from forward-thinking collaborations.”

Full-rate production of Monarch Tractor’s MK-V Series is scheduled to begin Q1 2023 at the Foxconn Ohio facility, an approximately 6.2 million square foot campus of scalable production space. This will follow production of Monarch’s Founder Series in Q4 of 2022 at Monarch Tractor’s Livermore, California, manufacturing facility.

“Creating the industry’s most advanced tractor demands a manufacturing partner with the experience to quickly scale and execute with precision,” said Praveen Penmetsa, Co-Founder & CEO of Monarch Tractor. “Foxconn is an EMS leader whose manufacturing and solutions are world-renowned. We are proud to partner with Foxconn and work together to transform the future of farming.”

In May 2022, Foxconn assumed manufacturing

operations at its Ohio facility after completing an Asset Purchase Agreement (“APA”) with Lordstown Motors Corp. (Nasdaq:“RIDE”). The agreement with Monarch Tractor is the first contract manufacturing engagement by Foxconn following the closing of the APA. It embodies the Foxconn vision to expand its contract manufacturing in the EV market. The agreement also continues the transformation of Foxconn capabilities in the Mahoning Valley.

### About Hon Hai

Established in 1974 in Taiwan, Hon Hai Technology Group (“Foxconn”) (2317: Taiwan) is the world’s largest electronics manufacturer. Hon Hai is also the leading technological solution provider, and it continuously leverages its expertise in software and hardware to integrate its unique manufacturing systems with emerging technologies. Hon Hai has expanded its capabilities into the development of electric vehicles, digital health, and robotics, and three key technologies – new-generation communications technology, AI, and semiconductors – which are key to driving its long-term growth strategy. In addition to maximizing value-creation for customers who include many of the world’s leading technology companies, Hon Hai is also dedicated to championing environmental sustainability in the manufacturing process and serving as a best-practices model for global enterprises. To learn more, visit [HonHai.com](https://www.honhai.com).

### About Monarch Tractor

Monarch Tractor is working to utilize 21st-century technology to empower farmers by enabling profitable implementation of regenerative, sustainable and organic practices. Monarch Tractor, the world’s first fully electric, driver optional, smart tractor, enhances farmer’s existing operations, alleviating labor shortages, and maximizing yields. Monarch is committed to elevating farming practices to enable clean, efficient, and economically viable solutions for today’s farmers and the generations of farmers to come. With cutting-edge technology, global reach, and an experienced team, Monarch is delivering meaningful change for the future of farming. For more information, visit [MonarchTractor.com](https://www.monarchtractor.com).

# State Water Contractors Applaud Release of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project



Aerial view looking east White Slough center, left is Rindge Tract and right is King Island, all part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in San Joaquin County, California. (Photo: DWR)

Press Release Provided by State Water Contractors

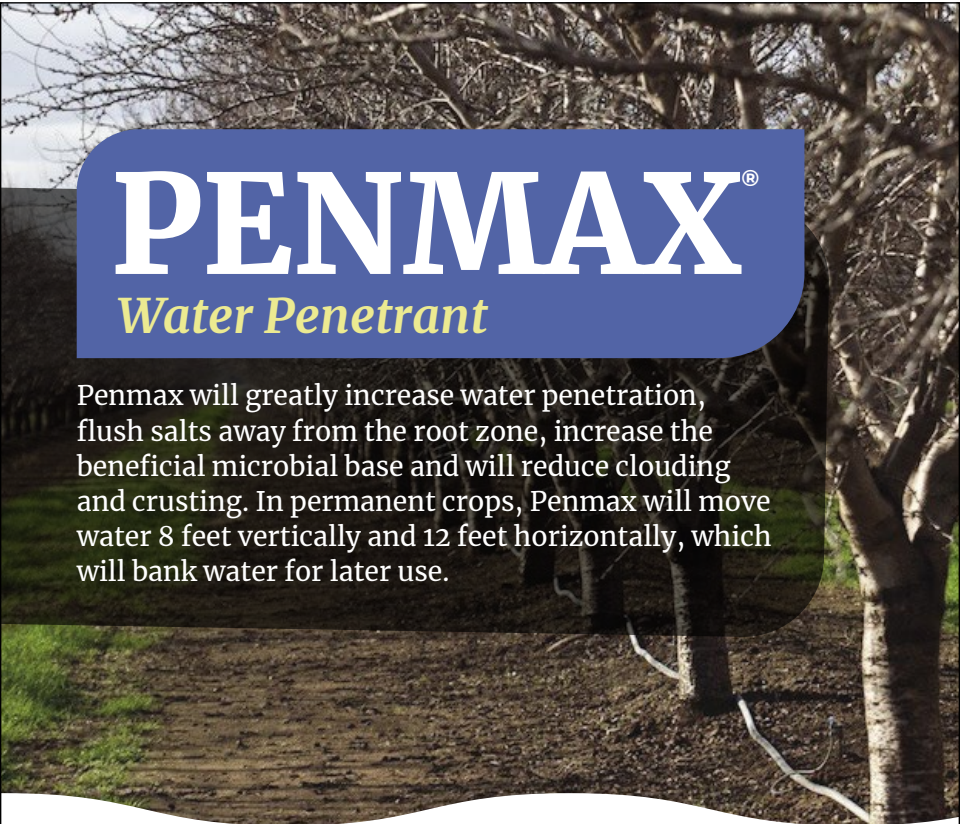
On July 27th, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Delta Conveyance project – a single-tunnel proposal to modernize the existing State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and a crucial part of the state’s Water Resilience Portfolio. The proposed

Delta Conveyance Project is a key climate adaptation strategy that would ensure the SWP can capture, move and store water when it is available for the 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland that depend on it.

“We commend DWR for advancing the Delta Conveyance Project with the release of the Draft EIR. This project is critical to ensuring Californians have access to high-quality, affordable and reliable water supplies amidst the growing impacts of climate change. The Draft EIR clearly shows that the project has been downsized, refined and redesigned to avoid and reduce local impacts and address environmental concerns.

The State Water Contractors have built and strengthened local and regional projects to diversify and expand water supplies to serve their customers – efforts that rely on or complement SWP supplies. We need to make investments in resilient, updated water infrastructure in the Delta to respond to climate change and support local water supply projects. These investments are urgent, and the Delta Conveyance Project is the right project at the right time to modernize the SWP’s Delta infrastructure so that it can continue to provide the foundational source of water local agencies need to secure their water future.

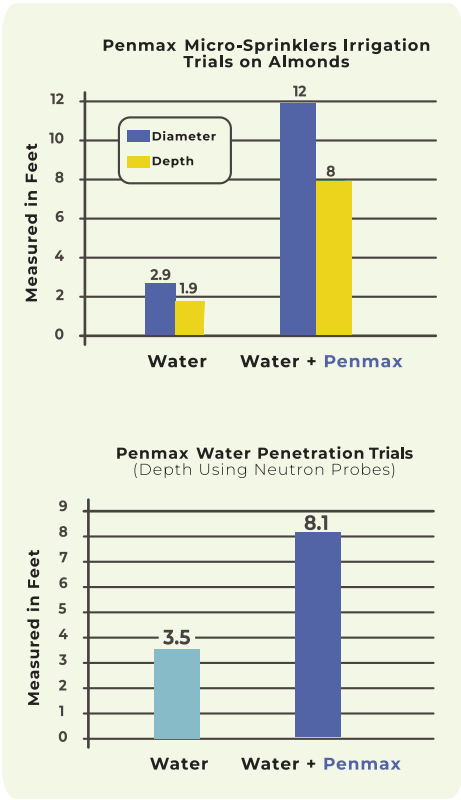
We look forward to the public review process and moving this critical project forward.”



# PENMAX® Water Penetrant

Penmax will greatly increase water penetration, flush salts away from the root zone, increase the beneficial microbial base and will reduce clouding and crusting. In permanent crops, Penmax will move water 8 feet vertically and 12 feet horizontally, which will bank water for later use.

- Penmax (non-Ionic)
- No pH effect on soils
- No compounds formed with hard water
- Less product required
- Penmax enhances the activity of soil organisms
- Improves and balances the soil ecology
- Preserves soil moisture by minimizing water evaporation
- Allows water to move deeper and laterally in soils
- Helps carry excess problem salts away from roots
- Creates an improved root/soil interface
- Made in CA and can be delivered quickly



# WESTERN NUTRIENTS

SINCE 1984

661-327-9604 | 800-542-6664 CA Only  
[WesternNutrientsCorp.com](https://www.WesternNutrientsCorp.com)

Western Nutrients Corporation has been developing and manufacturing high quality fertilizer, micronutrients and plant foods for commercial agriculture, horticulture, golf courses, and lawn & garden use since 1984. We guarantee quality and the ability to ship the best products in their class at competitive prices world wide.





**FARM CREDIT WEST  
TREATS ME AS  
*an individual...  
not a  
transaction.***

**DAVID PAGE**  
Cattle Rancher  
Colorado River Reservation, AZ  
Farm Credit West Customer

**Who you are matters to us.**

That's why most lending decisions are made at the branch level. We take the time to get to know your business so you can get back to what matters most to you—running your operation.

**KERN COUNTY**

661.399.7360

[FarmCreditWest.com](https://FarmCreditWest.com)



*Committed. Experienced. Trusted.*







# Power of Testimony

By Joshua Stevens  
Faith Contributor, Valley Ag Voice

To give a testimony is to provide a witness or evidence.<sup>1</sup> We often see the word testimony surrounding stories of peoples’ paths to Christ or the story of Christ’s impact on their lives. While testimony provides a wonderful opportunity to rejoice with fellow believers, it can also be an impactful tool for evangelism.

When we look at the most popular subjects surrounding evangelism and apologetics, we quickly find ourselves knee-deep in texts and speeches about the historicity of Christianity, philosophical debates about what theoretical argument can persuade and dissuade one from

believing in any god and papers written by brilliant scholars discussing whether this discovery or that discovery could be evidence for or against theism. What is less prevalent is the very strategy that Christ himself asked of others and what the apostles employed: testimony.

This is not to say that any other method shouldn’t be used when discussing why we have good reason to believe in Christ, for there are many good reasons to do so! It is, rather, to point out that we should continue in the foundation of our belief in making Christianity a personal claim and not a theoretical statement. If you claim to follow Christ, but your life remains unchanged, then how do we know your claim is true? Or as one other put it, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, you will recognize them by their fruits.” Matthew 7:15-20.<sup>2</sup>

In 1 Corinthians 15:5-6, Paul appeals to the testimony of himself and others to provide evidence that Christ truly rose from the dead, “and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.”<sup>2</sup> Paul’s case for Christ here does not rely on philosophy or science but rather asks the church of Corinth to rely on his word and those other believers who Christ appeared to.

In the same way, when we go about discussing the gospel and why someone should believe in it, we should turn to how it has impacted us, how the gospel saved us from depravity, and how Christ’s sacrifice not only theologically united us with our creator, but how Christ has relationally transformed our life to be something new and glorious. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”<sup>2</sup>

In previous articles we have ended with scripture and



The power of testimony. (Photo: Terrance Emerson / Shutterstock.com)

calls to action but going forward we would like to end in prayer. It is my hope that you will pray with us and that, together, we can see the kingdom’s work done.

I pray that as we reflect on the change the gospel has had in our life that we can speak with grace and authority to those around us, unashamed of our previous state but bold in the Christ who gave His life for our eternity. For those who still question the gospel and our savior, I pray that God will reward their questions with answers, for fellow believers to surround them, carefully listen, and gracefully respond. May the Spirit meet us, guide us, and help us. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

<sup>1</sup>Easton, M. (1893). *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. New York: Harper & Brothers.  
<sup>2</sup>Crossway Bibles. (2001). *The Holy Bible English Standard Version*. Wheaton: Good News Publishers.

# Investments in Infrastructure and Water Resilience Projects to Help Secure California’s Water Future

Press Release Provided by State Water Contractors

On August 11th, the Governor announced a water supply plan to adapt to California’s hotter and drier weather, which focuses on the modernization of the state’s water infrastructure. With the state projected to lose 10% of its water supplies over the next 20 years, today’s plan outlines strategies to advance water infrastructure, expand water storage capacity, reduce water demand, and improve forecasting, data and management. Governor Newsom also named Antonio Villaraigosa to serve as a key Infrastructure Advisor for the state.

“The Governor’s strategy is a direct reflection of the urgent need to modernize and repair the state’s water infrastructure to ensure a more resilient water supply,” said Jennifer Pierre, General Manager of the State Water Contractors. “As we approach a fourth consecutive dry year and ongoing

aridification, we must get serious about advancing projects like the Delta Conveyance Project to accommodate our changing hydrology, investing in subsidence repair and prioritizing conservation as a California way of life.”

The Governor’s plan builds on the \$2.8 billion allocation in the 2022-23 budget for drought relief to hard-hit communities, water conservation, environmental protection for fish and wildlife and long-term resilience projects.

“Investments in improved forecasting and data management are also critical to achieving the Governor’s water supply strategies, making way for more flexible water management rooted in science and adaptive management. We look forward to working with the Governor, our state agency partners and local water agencies to advance climate resilient projects to secure California’s water future.”

# Western Growers Praises Governor Newsom’s Bold Water Supply Strategy for California

Press Release Provided by Western Growers

In response to Gov. Gavin Newsom’s Water Supply Strategy that was announced on August 11th, Western Growers President & CEO Dave Puglia issued the following statement:

“We applaud Governor Newsom’s bold and comprehensive water infrastructure and management strategy. Our farms are in distress due to water insecurity, increasingly placing millions of Californians in our agricultural regions at great risk of economic harm. To adapt to climate realities, the Governor’s plan recognizes the urgent need to build new and improve existing infrastructure and to streamline and improve the practicality of the regulatory processes that govern them. Critically, that means new and expanded surface and groundwater storage to capture wet year flood

flows that are too infrequent to be missed.

While we have only seen this plan for the first time today and are certain to have many questions about it, Governor Newsom has given us reason to move forward with optimism. This is clearly not just nibbling around the edges. We echo the Governor’s sense of urgency and look forward to working with his administration in good faith to turn this plan into action.”



Western Growers President & CEO Dave Puglia. (Photo: Western Growers)



HIGH QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION  
Personal Injury · Medical Malpractice · Estate Planning  
Corporation/LLC Formation

Experienced. Trusted. Local.

THE LAW OFFICE OF

Kyle W. Jones

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1620 Mill Rock Way • 833-1090 • KWJonesLaw.com



Wisdom, advice, and insights from the people that make up the fabric of our community.

OurTwoCentsPodcast.com



# CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS IT SYSTEMS AND CYBERSECURITY?

MICROSOFT CLOUD SOLUTIONS  
SERVER SUPPORT  
BACKUP AND DISASTER RECOVERY  
MANAGED IT SERVICES  
CYBERSECURITY  
DESKTOP SUPPORT  
VOIP PHONE SOLUTIONS  
IT HELP DESK 24X7X365

THE VALLEY'S LEADING IT SERVICE PROVIDER



WWW.GRAPEVINEMSP.COM | 661-377-2992



**Grapevine MSP**  
Technology Services