

operators to replace their trucks using the District's Truck Voucher Program. The program would aim to:

- ◆ Utilize \$7 million dollars of funding in the District's 2013/2014 budget for the Truck Voucher Program.
- ◆ Prioritize single owner/operators for funding until December 31, 2013.
- ◆ Leverage ARB's load assistance programs for trucks to help finance single owner/operators.
- ◆ Create a targeted outreach campaign to target Valley-based single owner/operators.

CCGGA's Director of Regulatory Affairs, Aimee Brooks testified at the Governing Board meeting and addressed the board saying, "our members who are affected will want to do the right thing and remain in compliance, but they will need assistance from programs like this to help with the large costs associated with meeting ARB's truck rule requirements." This programs reflects CCGGA's continued support of incentive programs as opposed to a command and control compliance program. The item was approved by the Governing Board and now the Executive Director/APCO will make the administrative changes needed to the District's existing Truck Voucher Program. CCGGA will be updating you with the latest developments.

EPA Proposing to Approve Revised SIP, Interim Final Rule Issued

California has revised its State Implementation Plan (SIP) addressing the Clean Air Act's nonattainment area contingency measure requirements for the 1997 annual and 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) national ambient air quality standards in the San Joaquin Valley. EPA is proposing to approve this SIP revision and as a result would terminate the sanctions clocks and Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) clock EPA imposed on the state from a previous SIP submission that was partially disapproved. The disapproval was based on contingency measures in the SIP that did provide significant emission reductions and thus put in place the sanction and FIP clocks. Changes made to the SIP contingency measures include proving that the area has met its 2012 reasonable further progress (RFP) emissions target and measurable additional reductions from several adopted measures and incentive funds. In addition to the proposed approval of the contingency measures, EPA is issuing an Interim Final Rule. It will keep emission off set sanctions currently in place in the SJV and defer future highway funding sanctions. These changes were made based on the proposed ap-

proval of California's revised SIP.

CCGGA Attends Important Immigration Meeting

CCGGA Executive Vice President Roger Isom participated in a special meeting in Fresno with **Congressman Xavier Becerra** of California to discuss the Federal Immigration Legislation currently in the House of Representatives. The meeting with Congressman Becerra, who is a leader in the bipartisan group of representatives negotiating the immigration legislation on the House side, comes at a critical time in the legislative process. Failure to move the bill this year means we probably won't see immigration reform for a while, because it will be very difficult to move the bill in an election year. Coordinating the meeting was **Congressman Jim Costa**, and the agricultural groups represented included the Western Agricultural Processors Association, the Nisei Farmers League, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, Western Growers Association, California Citrus Mutual and the California Grape and Tree Fruit League.

EPA's Proposed Label Changes for Pollinator Protection

EPA released a letter dated August 9, 2013 to registrants of Nitroguanidine Neonicotinoid products addressing bee hazard labeling for Neonicotinoid products containing Imidacloprid, Dinotefuran, Clothianidin or Thiamethoxam. The notice indicated that EPA is close to finalizing labeling language developed for all Nitroguanidine Neonicotinoid products that are applied as foliar applications. Some of the changes to the label include a pollinator protection box, set to appear immediately after the Environmental Hazards section of the current labels. The pollinator protection box also includes information about:

- ◆ Looking for specific restrictions and instructions to protect bees/pollinators.
- ◆ How bees/pollinators can be exposed to the product.
- ◆ Minimalizing exposure when pollinators are foraging around the application site.
- ◆ Environmental Stewardship website.
- ◆ Reporting Pesticide Incidents.

In addition to the pollinator box, new language that is crop specific must be included in the **Directions for Use** section. Changes include when the application can be made and at what temperature, among others. **Directions for Use** changes will be seen in the following categories:

- ◆ Crops under contracted pollinator services.
- ◆ Food crops and commercially grown ornamentals not

under contract for pollination services but are attractive to pollinators

- ◆ Non-Agricultural Products.

Farm and Field Station Tour: Precision Irrigation and Conservation Agriculture

California's Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation Center invites you to the **Precision Irrigation and Conservation Agriculture Farm and Field Station Tour**. The tour is scheduled for September 12, 2013 from 1:00 PM til dusk at the UC West Side Research and Extension Center in Five



Points, CA. This event will showcase some of the most promising technologies and advanced sustainable systems aimed at water efficiency. The event will feature a bus tour to three SJV farms where highly precise overhead irrigation systems are being used and an educational

workshop focusing on the benefits of conservation agriculture systems that are currently under study. The evening program is hosting a Keynote address by the **Director of the Nebraska Water Center, Dr. Suat Irmak**. The evening concludes with a free barbeque dinner and an award ceremony for the 2013 Conservation Tillage Farmer Innovator of the year.

Specific Innovative Technologies Presented will include:

- ◆ Irrigation Application Package Selection for soil types and conditions.
- ◆ Avoiding Penetration and Surface Sealing Problems.
- ◆ Technologies for Maintaining Dry Wheel Tracks with 'Tire to Tire' Production.
- ◆ Economic Comparisons of Irrigation Systems.
- ◆ Management Practices to Improve Long-Term Soil Properties and Function.

This is a great opportunity for growers looking to achieve greater profits, resource conservation, and specific management strategies to avoid problems. The event is free but pre-registration is requested. Please R.S.V.P. by email to Diana Nix at dlnix@ucdavis.edu. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tulare Lake Basin WDR to be Heard on Sept. 19th

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will consider adoption of the Tulare Lake Basin Waste Discharge Requirements on **September 19th** at the Radisson

Hotel in Fresno. The Hearing will begin at 9 am. The Tulare Lake Basin covers all irrigated agriculture south of the San Joaquin River to Kern County excluding the Westlands Water District. This is the second of a series of coalition specific WDR's that will be heard by the Board. The Board adopted the Eastern San Joaquin River WDR last December. A revised draft of the requirements is expected to be released at least 10 days prior to the hearing. The Association along with other ag and coalition group representatives have received indications that our proposed amendments will be included in the revised regulation. Even with the amendments, the WDR is expected to be very similar to the requirements that were adopted in the Eastside WDR. The regulation has been significantly modified since the August 2012 workshop in Tulare. Staff has continually worked with ag and coalition representatives to make the program more workable than previous drafts. Having said that, the regulation will still have significant impacts to your farming operations. We encourage all of our growers to attend the hearing on the 19th. If you have any questions about the proposed WDR, please contact Casey Creamer at (559) 252-0684 or at casey@ccgga.org.

Association Hosts Water Board Member

The Association in cooperation with the Westside Coalition, recently hosted Board Member **Carmen Ramirez** of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for an educational

tour in the Los Banos Area. The tour consisted of a visit to Growers Association Chairman **Cannon Michael's** operation to look at the practices of their diversified row crop farm. We also took Ms. Ramirez on a tour of the San Luis



Canal Co. facilities, where she received an overview of the water quality programs from water conservation specialist **Alejandro Paolini**. **David Cory** of the Westside Coalition also gave Ms. Ramirez an overview of the Westside Coalition and its efforts to address water quality. Ms. Ramirez is a Merced native and an attorney for the Law Offices of Fagalde, Albertoni, & Flores.

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
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Fresno, CA 93727

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IMPORTANT—Informative Meeting Notice!!!

Date: September 26, 2013
Place: Westside Research Center – Five Points
Time: 7:30 – 8:00 Coffee
8:00 – 8:30 Registration
8:30 Program Begins

Morning Session:

Cotton Research Reports/Updates Including: Lygus Work, Weed Management, Harvest Aids and Drip Irrigation Management.

Lunch

Afternoon Session:

“Devoted Entirely to All Fusarium FOV Race 4 Research Efforts”

Reports and Updates on All Fusarium Race 4 Research from the Entire Research Team Engaged in this Effort and Funded by Industry.

Questions and Answers!

CA State Support Committee Meeting to consider funding for 2014 projects follows the Afternoon Session.

Please Plan to Attend! Get caught up on all CA cotton research, plus all you want to know about the Fusarium Race 4 issues and efforts underway to manage and control the problem in CA.



The Cotton Chronicle

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September 2013

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Industry Calendar

Sept 11th

Grower Board Mtg—
Fresno

Sept 18th

Ginner Board Mtg—
Fresno

Sept 26th

Fusarium & State
Support Comm.
Mtg—
Five Points

*(Visit web calendar
for details)*

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2013 Cotton Acres

Pink Bollworm Program cotton acreage numbers for 2013 were released on August 9th. Total acres statewide are in at 278,420 acres, down from 365,000 acres last year. Pima acres are reported at 186,690 acres, down from 225,000 last year. Upland acres come in at 91,730 acres for this year, down from 140,000 acres last year. These are unofficial numbers, but we have come to rely on these reports as the best source for accuracy year in and year out.

No Sticky Cotton

It's that time of year when aphid and whitefly can make their mark with open bolls exposing lint to their sugary secretions! Reports are varied depending on the area, but



some treatments have been made with many more underway. As stated in the past, the problem, must be addressed in a timely and responsible way in the field before harvest. Cooperation from growers and PCA's keeping a lookout until harvest begins is critical.

Hopefully this early crop will avoid continued or drawn out exposure for these insects to establish or re-establish following defoliation which has gotten some in trouble in the past. Main thing again is, address what's out there now all the way to defoliation and if harvest is delayed continue to watch for problems reoccurring. Our reputation has served this industry well. As a much smaller industry today it is even more important that we protect what we have left and hope to hold on too! Let's all growers, PCA's, ginners and merchants continue to work together as we have in the past to make sure we have "No Sticky Cotton." Our customers around the world are watching and counting on us all! Thank you—Cotton—Up with "No Sticky Cotton!"

Incentive Funding Available for Truck Owner/Operators

At a recent San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Governing Board meeting, SJVAPCD staff acknowledged impending concerns regarding the January 1, 2014 deadline for the ARB truck rule. Staff expressed specific concerns for the more vulnerable small truck fleets and owner/operators. The district expects widespread noncompliance by small fleets and single owner/operators who have endured the economic downturn and can't afford required retrofits or the purchase of a new truck to remain in compliance by the January 1, 2014 deadline. For many of these small truck fleets or owner/operators, the retrofit costs to remain in compliance are estimated between \$15,000- \$20,000 and in many cases exceed the value of the truck. To address this issue, the district recommended establishing an incentive program for owner/