



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

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Industry Calendar

Jan 5-7
Beltwide
-San Antonio, TX

Feb 6-8
NCC Annual Mtg
-Memphis, TN

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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Association Submit Comments in Opposition to Proposed Nighttime Lighting Requirements

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) submitted comments calling into question proposed new requirements by CalOSHA. The new requirements would require lighting to be provided such that light can be measured at 10 foot-candle light power within a 25 foot radius when working around agricultural equipment. In attempting to determine the impact of these



proposed rules, CCGGA took measurements of an almond loading operation, cotton module unloading operation and a cotton bale loading operation,

with all of these activities occurring at night. These measurements clearly demonstrated the inability to comply with the law as proposed, and in the one instance where additional lighting had been provided to help rectify the situation, an air pollution control district violation was also created! As a result, CCGGA has serious concerns with the premise for the proposed revisions, serious concerns with the industry's ability to meet the proposed requirements for levels of light intensity, and issues with whether or not the standard is nec-

essary based on a couple of the measurements we conducted. CCGGA submitted the comments and the measurements in response to CalOSHA's request for data supporting the industry's claims that the proposed regulations are not necessary and impractical to meet. Stay tuned!

CCGGA Continues to Oppose Changes to Heat Illness Standard

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) partnered with several other agricultural groups to submit comments in opposition to the proposed amendments to CalOSHA's latest proposed revisions to the Heat Illness Standard. While the agency has removed the onerous and impractical distance requirements for shade and water, serious issues remain. The concerns focused on a failure to demonstrate necessity, as CalOSHA has not provided a shred of evidence that these changes will provide any additional protection over the existing standard. The group also expressed concerns with the additional rest period requirements that would

only apply to agriculture! And while the distance requirement for shade at 700 feet was removed, it still requires shade to cover all employees at any point in time. This is not only impractical it is most likely impossible in an agricultural setting. These proposed changes were under a 15 day comment period. CalOSHA remains under serious pressure to pass these changes due to a lawsuit by the UFW. But the Associations remain resolute in opposition to



the proposed changes and will remain so until such time as evidence is provided that demonstrates sufficient evidence to warrant revisions to the existing standard.

Proposed Changes to CalRecycle Composting Regulations

This past month, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) submitted comments seeking clarity on CalRecycle's proposed



changes to the Composting Regulations. While the proposed changes did not specifically mention regulations aimed at cotton gins, the practices employed by cotton gins were not specifically listed as exempt. In the comments, CCGGA asked for clarity of highlighted definitions such as "Agricultural Material" and "Food Material". The main issue of concern for CCGGA was whether or not cotton ginning was considered an excluded activity from proposed regulations. Definitions for both Food and Agricultural Material could be applied to cotton ginning waste and the comments submitted reflect our request for clarity. CCGGA also wanted a more defined explanation for Food Material Handling Operations, specifically a definition that would exclude ginning and processing biomass. CCGGA cited all of the collected, organic material at cotton gins, hullers and processors was not being commercially composted, and thus should be exempt. Stay tuned for more details.

EPA Proposes to Reclassify San Joaquin Valley as "Serious Non-attainment for PM2.5"

EPA is proposing to reclassify the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) "moderate" nonattainment area, including areas of Indian country within it, as a "serious" nonattainment area for the 1997 PM2.5 national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). This proposed reclassification from "moderate" to "serious" is necessary because EPA has determined that the area cannot practicably attain these NAAQS by the applicable attainment date of April 5, 2015. The SJV Unified Air Pollution Control District requested

this reclassification and submitted an analysis to demonstrate that the SJV cannot practicably attain the NAAQS by April 5, 2015. This action was based on EPA's review and concurrence with the District's analysis, as well as EPA's own independent analysis of air quality data. Upon final reclassification as a "serious" area, the SJV will need to meet more stringent requirements such as a lower permitting threshold for major sources. The area will have additional time to meet the standard but must do so as expeditiously as practicable. The State will be required to submit a plan demonstrating attainment by December 31, 2015, with a possible five year extension.

CCGGA Submits Comments on 2nd Round of FSMA Regulation for Animal Feed

Once again, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA) submitted comments on revisions to the draft regulation for animal feed proposed under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). With technical assistance from The Acheson Group (TAG), CCGGA submitted comments on the *Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Animal Food (Preventive Controls for Animal Food Rule)*. In the Preventive Controls for Animal Food Rule, CCGGA called for FDA to clarify that the cotton ginning is clearly exempt from this rule, and asked for clarification and flexibility on labeling requirements. FDA will be taking these comments under consideration and will be issuing the final rule no later than August 30th, 2015.



California's Cap and Trade Investment Program

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 or as it is better known, AB 32 has started to further input on how and where the proceeds from the law's cap and trade program. The over-arching goal of the investments are to improve public health and quality of life in the most burdened communities in California. These funds must go to-

wards further reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. The legislature also passed SB 535 (De Leon), which mandated that 25% of the proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund must also go to projects which benefit disadvantage communities. CalEPA has the authority to define these communities and is using their CalEnviroScreen tool, which asses portions of California that are disproportionately burden by multiple sources of pollution. These funds go to various state and local agencies for additional greenhouse gas cutting progams. The association has concerns with how this CalEnviroScreen tool will be used to regulate members operations in these targeted communities, including more rules from local air districts. It could be further regulation and fewer jobs for already struggling areas. CCGGA continues to monitor how the proceeds are spent from the cap and trade program, and look for ways to help businesses reduce pollution without increasing regulation!



ARB Puts the Brakes on “Sustainable Freight” Rule

The Air Resources Board of California had big plans for a sustainable freight strategy that would target seaports, airports, railroad facilities, distribution centers, warehouses, and others. The ARB’s end goal is zero to near zero emissions for the freight systems in California. The draft concept was a result of increased efforts to find ways that reduce particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxide (NOx), and other greenhouse gases associated with the transportation industry, including trucks, locomotives, and ocean going vessels. Proposals for reductions strategies included emission caps on facilities plus new reporting requirements for these facilities. Industry stepped in and has advised ARB to delay the effort in order to revise strategy—to which ARB agreed to. Although the draft concept/rule has been delayed, this issue will remain very critical for CCGGA members who utilize these modes of transportation and storage for their shipments and storage needs.



CCGGA looks forward to working with ARB in 2015 at workshops and board meetings to help draft a revised concept/rule that makes sense for the transportation industry and our members!

Board Members Up for Re-election are Reaffirmed

No new nominations were received in the 2014-2015 elections for both the California Cotton Ginners Association and the California Cotton Growers Association. The Associations only received nominations for the existing board members. Re-elected to three year terms for the California Cotton Ginners Association were: **John Colbert, Modern Ginning; Stan Creelman, Mid Valley Cotton Growers; Michael Hooper, Farmers Cooperative Gin, Inc.; Matt Toste, Huron Ginning; and Don Van Schuyver, Semi Tropic Cooperative Gin.** On the Growers side, **Jim Neufeld and Bryan Bone** were re-elected for Kern County, and **Tim Cox** was re-elected for Riverside County. **Catherine Fanucchi** stepped down from Board after sev-



Steve Wilbur gives Catherine Fanucchi a plaque for her service on the board.

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eral years of dedicated service and was recognized at the Board's December Board Meeting. The seat in Madera County remained vacant.

West Coast Ports Continuing Strike

Over the past 7 months negotiations have taken place between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association. In that time, no progress has been made in terms of finalizing a contract that would bring the Longshoremen back to full staffing numbers. Without a contract, the workforce has dwindled, which has led to major delays. These major delays have led to increased cost in nearly every aspect of the transportation of goods. Storage containers are being priced higher, storage fees are being incurred once a container is dropped off at the port, and trucking fees are increasing. These issues have led to missed contract dates, or late shipments from the ports to their international destinations. This has put a major strain on many growers in the San Joaquin Valley as they scramble to meet deadlines, or even find alternative options to get their product to the buyer. For the last month, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers (CCGGA) has been compiling a list of the effects experienced by growers and processors by these issues. CCGGA has also engaged in

talks with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Governor's office, the Port of Oakland, as well as Congressional Representatives about finding a solution for this issue quickly. CCGGA has also been engaged with the Agricultural Transportation Coalition in hopes that the report will be read throughout the United States. The situation has become so bad that last week the Japanese government expressed concern with the U.S. Department of Agriculture due to delays. This is the first sign of foreign pressure, regarding exports, to get an agreement in place. This situation is only turning business away from California exports, and hurting farmers in the long run. If you have any experience with higher costs, delays at the port, or even missed contracts please feel free to contact Chris McGlothlin with CCGGA at chris@ccgga.org

