



The Cotton Chronicle

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January 2016

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Industry Calendar

Feb 5—7
NCC Annual
Meeting—
Dallas, TX

Mar 9
CA Cotton
Growers Annual
Meeting—
Visalia, CA

Mar 23
Ginners School—
Corcoran, CA

April 27—29
WCSA Annual
Convention—
Incline Village, NV

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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Pacific Ginning Co. Gin Manager Ron Nimmo Passes Away

On December 26th, Pacific Ginning Co. Gin Manager **Ron Nimmo** passed away after a long battle with cancer. Ron was a board member and past Chairman of the California Cotton Ginners Association. Ron started his career with Producers Cotton Oil. He began as a night ginner at Pleasant Valley Gin in Coalinga. From there he moved to Tranquility under Jack Ly-

ons, also as the night ginner. He was then promoted to day ginner at Mesa Gin and then moved to Westhaven Gin, a gin that would have later significance. He then became a field electrician and later went into business for himself, opening an auto repair & electric shop. He returned to the cotton industry working as a ginner for **Westhaven Cotton Company and Stone Land Company** and eventually became the Gin Manager running the former Producers gin. His career was just getting started at this time. Over the last several years Ron has continued in his service as a Director of the California Cotton Ginners Association, and served on several committees even after he left Westhaven Gin to work in the Solar Industry and subsequently came back as a gin manager for **County Line**

Gin. Ron later went to work for the **Pacific Ginning Company** where he has been ever since.

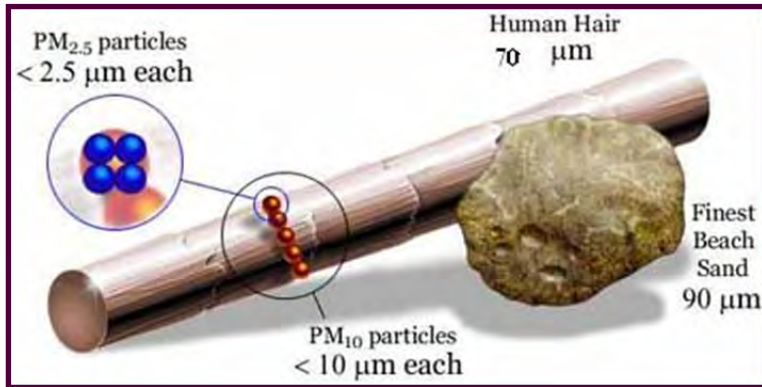
Ron was Chairman of the California Cotton Ginners Association from 2011 to 2012, and received the Ginner of the Year Award from the California Cotton Ginners Association in 2011. Ron has been called an “innovator” and a “wonderful person and friend” by his colleagues. Truer words were never spoken. He will be sorely missed by this Association, his colleagues and the entire cotton industry in California.



EPA Reclassifies San Joaquin Valley as “Serious” for PM2.5

The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** is taking final action to reclassify the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Moderate nonattainment area, including areas of Indian country within it, as a “Serious nonattainment area” for the 2006 PM2.5 national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), based on the EPA’s determination that the area cannot practicably attain these NAAQS by the applicable attainment date of December 31, 2015. As a consequence of this reclassification, California must submit, no later than 18 months from the effective date of this reclassification, a “Serious area attainment plan” includ-

ing a demonstration that the plan provides for attainment of the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards in the SJV area as



expeditiously as practicable, and no later than **December 31, 2019**. The State must also submit, no later than 12 months after the effective date of this reclassification, nonattainment new source review (NNSR) SIP revisions to implement the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS in the SJV area, to the extent those requirements have not previously been met. These revisions must include:

- **Best available control measures (BACM) for control of direct PM_{2.5} and PM_{2.5} precursor emissions, including ammonia emissions, and**
- **Lowering the “major stationary source” permitting thresholds (70 tons per year for sources of direct PM_{2.5} and PM_s precursors.**

Thankfully, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations** have already been working with the District to incorporate actual PM_{2.5} emissions data into their permits and emissions inventory that reflect the very low PM_{2.5} emissions from agricultural operations such as cotton harvesting and cotton ginning. However, extra emphasis will be placed on the already heavily regulated combustion sources such as trucks and off-road equipment. Accordingly, the Associations will be monitoring this issue very closely.

2016 NCC Annual Meeting Just Around the Corner

The **2016 Annual Meeting** of the **National Cotton Council** will be held in Dallas, Texas at the Omni Hotel. There are several important considerations to be noted. The first events will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 5. The convention's final event, the General Session, begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes by 12:00 noon on Sunday, February 7. Policy development at the **2016 Annual Meeting** will begin with the meetings of the six program committees on Saturday morning, February 6, followed by Board review of the program committee recommendations that afternoon and consideration of those recommendations by all delegates as the first business item dur-

ing the General Session on Sunday morning. Also included in this session will be a 2015 activities report from **Council Chairman Sledge Taylor**. Every Council delegate has been asked to serve on one of the six program committees. Because these committees meet on Saturday morning, delegates and program committee advisors should arrive in Dallas on Friday. The resolution process and conduct of other official business of the Council are intended to promote maximum attendance at Sunday morning's General Session. Accordingly, all delegates should arrange departures late enough on Sunday afternoon to permit attendance and participation during the entire Sunday morning program. Special activities include the "Welcome to Dallas" reception for all attendees on Friday night, the Saturday Luncheon and the Prayer



Breakfast on Sunday morning. Business attire is appropriate for all meeting events. Pre-registration for the **2016 NCC Annual Meeting** is now open online. Register now through January 23, 2016. Meeting registration fee is \$150.

CCGGA Submits Comments in Support of Chlorpyrifos

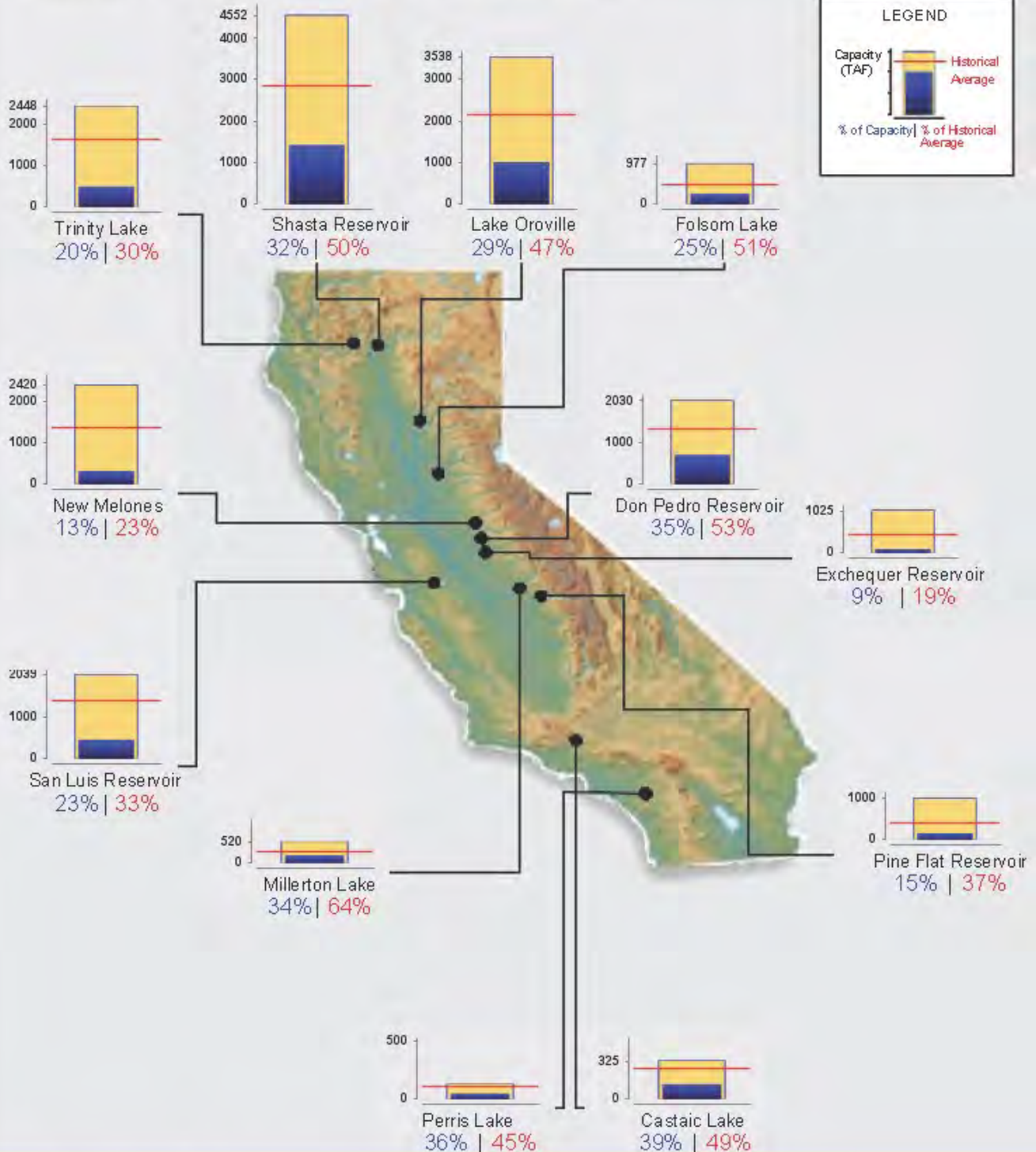
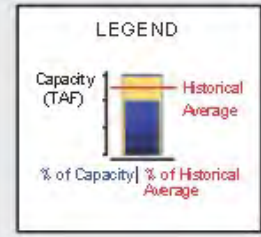
On October 30, the Environmental Protection Agency announced a proposal that would revoke all U.S. Tolerances of Chlorpyrifos (Lorsban). The Associations drafted comments indicating how critical this chemistry is in controlling pests such as Whitefly and late season aphids. Within the comments the Associations requested to retain the tolerances needed for cotton as well as any tolerances for potential product use. The Associations expressed concern over resistance management as the chemistries are continually regulated and phased out. Additionally, the Associations raised some question regarding the accuracy of modeling data used for a drinking water assessment as well as the EPA's procedures in handling the review of this particular product. The comment period ends on January 5, 2016 and a final rule is expected at the end of the year. Stay tuned as we will bring you more information as it becomes available.

Snowpack and Current Reservoir Conditions Encouraging

The electronic readings of the Sierra Nevada snowpack on December 23rd show its statewide water content is 9.3 inches, which is 112 percent of the December 23 historical average. In looking back at last year, below-normal precipitation and warm temperatures throughout the winter months combined to create a historically meager snowpack last winter, according to DWR's records. The snowpack at the start of February and March was only 23 percent and 19 percent of average, respectively on those dates. By April 1, when the snowpack normally is at its peak, electronic readings showed the snowpack's water content was only 5 percent of normal for that date, the lowest on record. El Nino needs to keep on coming!!

Ending At Midnight - January 4, 2016

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS



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Annual Air Resource Board Truck Registration Due

January is upon us, and while it is time to celebrate the coming of a new year, it also means that vehicle fleets must be registered or updated with the Air Resources Board (ARB). If you are familiar with registering your trucks through the Truck and Bus Reporting System, you will be pleasantly surprised with their newly designed reporting website. If you are unfamiliar with the system, ARB requires that vehicle fleets be reported through their website. The information needed for reporting includes vehicle make and model, vehicle model year, vehicle type, VIN number and family name of the vehicle. The purpose of the website is to report annual mileage for vehicles used at a specific operation. Agriculture has several exemptions available through the program, including: Ag Mileage Extensions, Ag Specialty Vehicles, Low Mileage Work Truck and Low-Use Non Operational Vehicles. There are restrictions to the number of vehicles or number of miles specific to vehicles that can be registered under specific exemptions. The Ag Mileage Extension only allows for 5 vehicles to be registered under that exemption and Low Use Non-Op vehicles are only allowed to travel a couple hundred miles every year at the maximum. Vehicle fleet registration/update is due by January 31st, so there is plenty of time to get your vehicles updated. If you have any questions with reporting, or would like help

getting your vehicles registered, please feel free to contact **Director of Technical Services, Chris McGlothlin**, at chris@ccgga.org, or give us a call at (559) 252-0684.

California Minimum Wage Set to Increase January 1st

For the second time in the past two years, Californians will be seeing an increase to minimum wage. The first increase saw minimum wage reach \$9/hour and took effect July 1st, 2014. **This upcoming increase will be to \$10/hour effective January 1st.** While this minimum wage increase is being applied state wide, cities throughout California are taking it upon themselves to increase minimum wage beyond the signed \$10 per hour bill. San Francisco, and some surrounding communities, has agreed to increase minimum wage to \$12 per hour by 2015, the City of Sacramento has agreed to increase the minimum wage to \$12.50 per hour by 2020, and Los Angeles City Council approved a measure to increase minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2020. These increases are having negative effects on various industries, with some business owners being forced to reduce staff in order to pay for minimum wage hikes. The unfortunate news is that the increases are not over. There are currently two ballot measures asking voters to approve a \$15 per hour, statewide minimum wage. Stay tuned for more wage updates in the upcoming year.