



# The Cotton Chronicle

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[www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org)

November 2016

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## Industry Calendar

December 6  
Ginners/Growers  
Joint Board Mtg—  
Fresno

Save the Date:  
May 31—June 2  
Cotton Annual  
Meeting—  
Monterey, CA

Visit web calendar  
for details

## CCGGA Staff

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### **REMINDER: Please Vote on Association Merger**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, after several months of meetings, the Boards of Directors of both Associations voted to recommend to the membership to merge the two Associations. Both Associations already utilize the same staff and office, and this effort is proposed to the membership to streamline the Association's operations. This movement is an important evolution for the cotton industry in California, and will not impact our effectiveness in representing California cotton gins and cotton growers in any way. **To finalize this effort, we need you to vote yes or no on the proposed merger.** If you would like to see a copy of the proposed new bylaws, you have a couple of options:

1. Visit our website at [www.ccgga.org](http://www.ccgga.org) and click on the "Proposed Joint Bylaws" link on the home page.
2. Call our office at (559)252-0684 and we will fax or mail you a copy.
3. Contact Shana Colby at our office at [shana@ccgga.org](mailto:shana@ccgga.org) and she will email you a copy.

Once you have reviewed the proposed bylaws and made a decision, please vote, sign, and mail, fax or email the attached ballot. **It is imperative that everyone vote on this initiative.** Please do so by **Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

### **CCGGA Hosts Congressional Staff**

This week the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations** hosted **Kristina Dunklin**, Legislative Director for **Congressman David Valadao** (21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District), **Jillian Plank**, Legislative Director for **Congressman Devin Nunes** (22<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District) and **Ruth Hazdovac**, Staff Assistant for Congressman Nunes. The group toured several agricultural sites with **CCGGA President/CEO Roger A. Isom**, **CCGGA Director of Technical Services**

**Christopher McGlothlin and Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) Safety Specialist Priscilla Rodriguez.** Of particular interest, the group visited County Line Gin. The



Pictured here, Kristina Dunklin discussing the FSMA Rule with Wayne Gilbert.

purpose of the visit was to discuss implementation issues with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), in particular, the current applicability of the Preventive Controls Rule for Animal Food to a cotton gin. CCGGA is working with the **National Cotton Ginners Association** and the **National Cotton Council** along with members of Congress and the Senate on this issue.

### **Westlands Meets on SGMA**

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Association attended a meeting amongst board members and stakeholders at Westlands WD - 5 Points field station to discuss the implementation of the **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)**. Westlands has filed the paperwork to form the preliminary Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for that region, and is now looking at the next required steps. Westlands staff presented the discussion topic as to whether stakeholders would like to break the district up into manage-

ment zones, or if they should keep the district as one and regulate it as such. There is a lot of concern as to what the limitations will be on groundwater pumping once sustainability plans are submitted, with many believing that the Department of Water Resources will restrict groundwater use per acre per year. Management zones could allow for more flexibility in groundwater pumping, depending on what your zone and sustainability plan looks like, whereas keeping the district together throughout would force the entire water district to be regulated as one.

### **CCGGA Meets with FDA Representatives on FSMA**

If you haven't heard, or been visited already, FDA is out inspecting tree nut hulling/shelling and processing facilities and asking questions with regards to FSMA implementation.



Of particular importance is the fact that several almond hullers have been visited and questioned regarding the applicability of the Preventive Controls Rule for Human Food. To address the issue, **CCGGA President/CEO Roger Isom and WAPA Safety Specialist Priscilla Rodriguez** traveled to Alameda to meet with FDA officials on FSMA implementation. CCGGA met with **FDA Director Kathleen Lewis and Deputy Director Darla Bracy** and several program leaders within FDA's San Francisco Region. CCGGA and WAPA have been focused on its ongoing effort to bring all cotton gins and hullers, regardless of ownership status, under the Produce Safety Rule and/or exempt from the Animal Food Rule. The need for this change was evidenced by these recent inspections and lack of understanding and confusion the ownership determination is causing. Very shortly, CCGGA will be sending its members interim guidance to follow until such time as this is addressed to help avoid compliance issues and eliminate the confusion. Meanwhile, CCGGA will continue its effort at the federal agency and congressional levels to bring consistency and uniformity to the regulations to avoid these compliance issues (see corresponding story).

### **ARB Rejects SJVAPCD PM2.5 Plan**

The California Air Resources Board yesterday sent the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's PM2.5 Plan back to them for further work, stating it didn't go far enough. The PM2.5 plan contains measures on how the District will meet the Federal PM2.5 standard. While the CARB staff had initially proposed approval of the plan, Chairwoman **Mary Nichols** expressed concerns that this

simply delayed the process and asked if this was all that could be done. At that point CARB staff commented that a more thorough review was necessary and that a deeper look into all combustion sources, including farm equipment should be looked at. Also, CARB staff indicated more could be done to look at sources of fugitive dust, including agriculture. Environmental groups showed up in force, outnumbering industry groups by more than 4 to 1. Association **President/CEO Roger Isom** was one of only 2 speakers to testify on behalf of agriculture. Isom stated, "that everything that could be done, is being done." Isom further commented that, "incentives are the one and only way to achieve the goals that CARB wants from this plan, and that more funds are needed." The environmental activist groups criticized the plan and the District for lack of workshops, failure to include more measures on agricultural fugitive dust and a failure by CARB to adopt a farm equipment regulation. The final vote by the board sent the plan back to the SJVAPCD for a rewrite and demanded that additional workshops be held on the proposed plan to review all possible measures. For the agricultural community this means that the state will take another look at adopting a mandatory replacement farm equipment regulation and the District will have to look at strengthening the Conservation Management Practice (CMP) Rule. The District will have approximately 90 days to review and revise the plan, along with ARB staff, and then bring to the board for consideration in February.

### **Time for Food Facility Biennial Registration Renewal**

Food facilities required to register with FDA must renew their food facility registrations this year **during the period beginning on October 1, 2016 and ending on December 31, 2016**. The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), enacted on January 4, 2011, amended the food facility registration requirements of section 415 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act). The registration requirements apply to domestic and foreign food facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States. FSMA amended section 415 of the FD&C Act to provide that food facilities required to register with FDA must renew their registrations with FDA every other year, during the period beginning on October 1 and ending on December 31 of each even-numbered year. At this time, the updated renewal form has not been published and renewal is only available online through FDA's website, please click on the following link: <http://bit.ly/2f1GyD> CCGGA will continue its focus and ongoing effort to bring all gins, into the "Farm" definition regardless of owner-

ship status, and subsequently under the Produce Safety Rule. There may be an opportunity to de-register your facility in the near future. If you have any questions please reach out to **President/CEO Roger Isom or WAPA Safety Specialist Priscilla Rodriguez at (559) 455-9272.**

### **New DPR Chief Deputy Director Tours Central Valley Ag**

New to her position, **Theresa Marks** Chief Deputy Director of California Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) visited the Central Valley to learn about production practices and regulatory impacts of tree nuts, cotton, citrus and fresh fruit. An Arkansas native, Marks learned of the complex and dynamic system growers operate under to bring a crop to harvest given the number of variables



they face ranging from sudden weather changes, pests or laws limiting historical practices. Additionally, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA)** accompanied Marks on the entire tour including visit to the Kearney Ag Research and Extension Center. There, **Dr. Pete Goodell** spoke on issues of pest management, particularly in cotton. Goodell shared that products are being taken off the market more quickly than registrants are able to introduce new ones. While there may be a number of products available to control a pest, it is most likely just a small handful of active ingredients which makes tolerance levels harder to manage. There was an active conversation throughout the entirety of the tour on DPR's proposed draft regulation governing the use of agricultural pesticides around schools and day-care facilities. The limitations and prohibitions of application during the hours of 6 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday along with both an annual notification and a 48 hour notification have created great concern amongst the growers across the state. Growers expressed these regulations don't take in to consideration situations like emergency weather event applications or in the tree nut industry case, the practice of stockpile and commodity fumigation. CCGGA expressed frustration in the fact this regulation is largely unjustified and could cause acres of ag land to be pulled out of production.

### **Opposition to DPR Ag Use Near School Regulation**

DPR's latest release of the proposed regulations regarding agricultural pesticide use near schools and child day-care facilities will impact thousands of acres of productive ag land. The proposed regulation would not only require advanced notification of applications when certain pesticides are applied within a quarter mile but would additionally prohibit many applications during from 6 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday. It would specifically prohibit the application of any fumigant within a quarter mile, effectively banning commodity fumigation. If you think this draft regulation will impact your operation we urge you to contact us immediately.

#### **The proposed regulation would do the following:**

- Prohibit many pesticide applications **within a quarter mile** of public K-12 schools and child day-care facilities from Monday through Friday between 6am and 6pm. These include all applications by aircraft, sprinklers, air-blast and **all fumigant applications**. In addition most dust and/or powder pesticide applications such as sulfur would also be prohibited during this time.
- Require California growers and pest control contractors to notify public K-12 schools and child day-care facilities and county agricultural commissioners (CACs) when certain pesticide applications are made **within a quarter mile** of these schools and facilities.

#### **Under the proposed regulation, California growers would be required to provide two types of notifications to a school or child day-care facility:**

- i. **An annual notification** that lists all the pesticides expected to be used during the upcoming year. This must be provided to the school or child day care facility administrator by April 30 each year. The notice must include among other things including name of product, map of field treated, contact information of grower and County Ag Commissioner, web address of National Pesticide Information Center for additional sources and facts.
- ii. **An application-specific notification** which must be provided to the school or child day-care facility 48 hours before each application is made. This begins Jan 1 2018 and must include among other thing the name of product being applied and the active ingredient, specific location of application and number of acres to be treated and the earliest time of application.

#### **What you can do to help oppose this regulation**

- If this regulation directly impacts your operation, please reach out to CCGGA by phone (559) 252-0684 or by email to Jodi Raley (jodi@ccgga.org)
- Join the Associations' letter writing campaign. All it requires is your name, email address and zip code. These personalized letters will be hand delivered to DPR. Submit your letter here -> [http://bit.ly/Pesticide\\_Schools](http://bit.ly/Pesticide_Schools)
- Appear and testify in opposition at the Public Hearings. The Association will present formal comments at the **Nov. 16** hearing in **Tulare** (1771 E. Tulare Ave. Tulare, CA).

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### **Assemblyman Cooper Visits Valley**

**Assemblyman Jim Cooper** traveled to the Central Valley to join the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations** and other members of the **Ag Presidents' Council** to learn about the diverse, complex and embattled agricultural industry in the valley. Assemblyman Cooper, a moderate democrat representing the 9<sup>th</sup> district including Lodi, Galt, Elk Grove and parts of Sacramento, has been an ally to the agricultural industry including recent NO votes on AB1066 (Ag Overtime) and SB32 (Greenhouse Gas Emission Levels). Assemblyman Cooper concluded his two day long tour visiting **Dos Palos Co-Op Gin** and visited **Bowles Farming** during cotton harvest. **Mike Davis**, General Manager of Dos Palos Co-Op, showed the assemblyman how cotton is handled, cleaned and transformed into a bale to go to textile mills. Davis shared with Assemblyman Cooper recent regulatory hurdles the gin and its members are facing including transportation issues with module truck movers and the exceedance in length that trucks are incurring in attempt to meet air quality standards. The Assemblyman accompanied cotton grower **Cannon Michael** of Bowles Farming to a near-by field cotton field being picked. President Roger Isom addressed how the signing of AB1066 will impact farms and workers across the valley, noting that many operation are already seeking



Assemblyman Cooper, Mike Davis, Roger Isom, and Jodi Raley discussing hurdles the cotton industry faces.

or implementing more mechanization to have reduced labor costs. Other stops for his two-day Central Valley tour included a tour of Valley Harvest Nut Co., California Dairies, Inc., Exeter-Ivahoe Citrus Association and HMC Farms. While each industry had problems that were commodity specific, an underlying and common issue brought to the Assemblyman's attention was the relentless, and at times, uncalled for regulatory burdens being piled on to the agricultural community as well as the disconnect to agriculture most Los Angeles based democrats have.