



The Cotton Chronicle

1785 N. Fine Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727 • Telephone: (559) 252-0684 • Fax: (559) 252-0551

www.ccgga.org

December 2016

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Industry Calendar

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

Visit web calendar
 for details

CCGGA Staff

Roger A. Isom
 President/CEO
roger@ccgga.org

Christopher McGlothlin
 Director of Technical
 Services
chris@ccgga.org

Jodi Raley
 Director of Regulatory
 Affairs
jodi@ccgga.org

Shana Colby
 Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org

Association Merger Approved!

On January 1, 2017, after a unanimous vote from members of both Associations, the California Cotton Ginners Association and the California Cotton Growers Association will become one

organization! The Western Cotton Growers Association was founded in 1949 as a cotton organization representing the interests of Arizona, California, and New Mexico cotton growers. One of the important issues that brought these growers together was government cotton allotments. By the mid 1950's, with cotton allotments no longer being the central issue, each of the three states went their separate ways and formed their own state grower associations. Since that time, the Western Cotton Growers Association, worked on issues involving the California cotton growers. In 1971, a few ginners began meeting. They were concerned over a series of regulations being imposed by State and Federal agencies. What they envisioned was an organization that would represent a united front, and in 1973 the needs led to

the formation of the California Cotton Ginners Association. In 1990, the Western Cotton Growers Association and the California Cotton Ginners Association agreed to share offices, staff and costs of running both organizations. This

BOARD MEMBERS	
GROWERS	GINNERS
Bryan Bone	John Colbert
Sam Carreiro	Stan Creelman
Andrew Clark	Mike Davis
Tim Cox	Tom Gaffney
Phil Hansen	Wayne Gilbert
Vince Marshall	Kirk Gilkey
Gary Martin	Greg Gillard
Robert McDonald	Mike Hooper
Cannon Michael	Tom Pires
Jim Neufeld	Matt Toste
Jim Razor	Don Van Schuyver
Steve Wilbur	Vacancy

agreement has facilitated better use of the dues collected from the members of both associations by avoiding duplication of costs. Furthermore, the Ginner – Grower Associations' Agreement has greatly enhanced and strengthened the legislative advocacy link in Sacramento as well as Washington. To further identify the members as California Cotton Growers, in 1991 the Western Cotton Growers changed its name to the California Cotton Growers Association. For the past 25 years these Associations have shared staff and offices, but kept separate accounting, Boards of Directors and meetings. With the approved merger there will now be one Board of Directors made up of 12 growers and 12 ginners. At the December joint board meeting the listed board members and officers were appointed from the existing boards. The

ADVISORS	
NAME	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION
Mike Brueggemann	National Cotton Council
Kevin Madding	CalCot
Geoff Toledo	Cotton Inc.
Earl P. Williams	Supima
Ted Sheely	Cotton Pest Control Board
Bob Hutmacher	UCCE State Cotton Specialist
Tim North	Western Cotton Shippers
Mark McKean	American Cotton Producers
Steve Wilbur	California Cotton Alliance
Charles Meyer	At-Large
Bill Stone	SJV Cotton Board

new officers for the Association were appointed as follows:

Officers

Chairman – **Phil Hansen**

1st Vice Chairman – **Mike Davis**

2nd Vice Chairman – **Bryan Bone**

Secretary/Treasurer – **Tom Gaffney**

Officially, this new organization will be called the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association**.

Longtime Cotton Advocate Passes

The cotton industry lost a long time cotton industry stalwart this past month with the passing of **Rick Lavis**, Executive Vice President of the Arizona Cotton Growers Association. Rick was a lobbyist for the Arizona Cotton Growers for over 36 years, and worked closely with the California cotton industry on issues of mutual interest such as farm policy for the West, pink bollworm and air quality. We will truly miss him. His wife of 50 years, Marti Lavis, reports that a memorial celebration of life for Rick will take place on January 21, 2017 at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Phoenix. The family requests any memorials go to the Friends of the University of Arizona Cancer Center and Hospice of the Valley. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

State Proposes Aggressive Water Conservation Plan

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) released a draft plan for achieving permanent conservation measures for water consumption in California in line with the Executive Order the Governor issued in May of 2016. Several key water conservation efforts in the plan include:

- **Permanent bans on wasteful practices, such as hosing driveways and excessively watering lawns.**
- **Technical assistance and financial incentives for water suppliers to implement leak prevention, detection, and repair programs.**
- **Collecting information about innovative water conservation and water loss detection and control technologies.**
- **Requiring agricultural water suppliers to quantify water use in their service areas and describe measures to increase water use efficiency.**
- **Full compliance with water use targets for urban water suppliers by 2025.**
- **Planning and preparing for continued and future drought and water shortages.**

The draft plan concerning agricultural water is outside of the scope of the Executive Order, so will require statutory authority. It is anticipated that the administration has

already drafted language that will either be run through the process or as a budget trailer bill. The SWRCB has been overseeing much of the implementation of the Executive Order, so it is likely the expanded statutory authority would be given to the Board as well. For agricultural water suppliers, requirements will include:

1. **Develop an annual water budget for the agricultural water service area;**
2. **Identify agricultural water management objectives and implementation plans;**
3. **Quantify measures to increase water use efficiency; and**
4. **Develop an adequate drought plan for periods of limited supply.**

The proposal would expand existing requirements to require agricultural water suppliers providing water to over 10,000 irrigated acres of land to prepare, adopt, and submit plans by April 1, 2021, and every five years thereafter. Agricultural water suppliers would also be required to submit an annual report to DWR by April 1 of each year that documents water budget inflow and outflow components in the water budget for the preceding water year.

Assemblyman Low Visits Cotton Gin

This past month, the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA)** brought **Assemblyman Evan Low** (28th Assembly District) to **Dos Palos Coop**, a cotton gin near Dos Palos. The visit was part of a tour by the Agricultural Presidents' Council (APC). **Gin Manager Mike Davis** was the site host where Assemblyman Low saw first-hand



Assemblyman Evan Low with Mike Davis at Dos Palos Co-op Gin

how upland and pima cotton are ginned. Assemblyman Low saw both a saw gin and a roller gin. Many topics were discussed including increased automation due to the impact of the increase in minimum wage and the overwhelming regulatory pressures faced by industry. Assemblyman Low represents the 28th Assembly District, located in the Bay Area and representing such cities such as Campbell,

Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Soreno, San Jose and Saratoga. The tour is part of the Association's continuing effort to inform and educate urban legislators on the challenges of operating and doing business in California. Other sites visited included an almond processor, dairy processor and a tomato processing plant.

ARB Conducts Workshop on PM2.5 SIP – Ag called on to do more!

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) held a workshop in Fresno on the PM2.5 State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). And as we warned a few weeks ago, agriculture is being called on to do more. Agriculture is being looked at for additional emission reductions from the following categories:

- **Ag Tractor Rule – replace ag tractors and harvesters (particularly almond harvesting equipment) for both NOx and PM2.5 reductions**
- **More stringent engine standards for agricultural pump engines (beyond tier 4 and cleaner natural gas engines)**
- **A new low-NOx standard for heavy-duty diesel trucks (beyond ARB's current Truck Rule)**
- **Alternatives for ag burning**
- **Additional Conservation Management Practices (CMPs)**
- **Additional restrictions under Regulation VIII for fugitive dust**

The Association was the only agricultural group in attendance, represented by **President/CEO Roger A. Isom** and **Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin**. Isom also testified at the meeting reporting that incentives are absolutely critical and necessary for the agricultural community due to their inability to pass along the additional costs. The Association also pointed to significant research performed recently to more accurately determine PM2.5 emissions from agricultural operations and that data showed that PM2.5 emissions from almond harvesting equipment, cotton gins and other operations are insignificant.

Legislature to Push New \$7.4 Billion Transportation Bill

The Governor and the state legislature are getting ready to move a \$7.4 billion transportation bill to address deferred maintenance on the state highway system and local street and road system. They will fund this bill by increasing fuel taxes, levying an additional new motor vehicle tax and increases annual vehicle registration fees. Proposed measures include:

- ◆ **17¢ per gallon increase in the motor vehicle fuel tax**
- ◆ **30¢ per gallon increase in the diesel fuel excise tax**
- ◆ **Increase the sales and use tax on diesel fuel by 3.5% from the current 1.75% to 5.25%**
- ◆ **\$38.00 increase in the annual vehicle registration fee**
- ◆ **A new \$165.00 annual vehicle registration fee attributable to zero emission vehicles.**

Moving forward these increases will be tied to the California Consumer Price Index. The bill also creates the independent Office of the Transportation General, which would be a separate governmental agency designated to oversee all state agencies expending state transportation funds, including the Department of Transportation, High-Speed Rail Authority, Department of California Highway Patrol, Department of Motor Vehicles and State Air Resources Board. The Association will be watching and opposing this legislation.

Growers Gather in Tulare-Oppose DPR School Regulation

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** has been calling upon our grower community and they answered. Joining **CCGGA Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley**, nearly 20 growers gathered to provide



CCGGA Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley testifying to DPR staff

public comment opposing the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) proposed draft rule that would prohibit many applications within a quarter mile of a school site and day care facility. Additionally, it would cause growers to provide an annual notification to the school site of all potential applications they expect to make over the next year as well as a 48-hour notification to the school site providing a 12-hour window of when and where the application will be made. CCGGA provided public comment adamantly opposing the regulation as it not only limits the flexibility that growers need to make real-time decision for applications, but additionally the regulation only further will propagate fear, misunderstanding and undue concern surrounding crop protection tools and the method of applications. Comments from the grower community included points of how it will impact their operation and limit their ability to produce, however most importantly growers shared their relationship with adjacent schools and how they take pride in the communication, coordination and trust that has been developed for years. Many shared of how their children and now grandchildren attend those very schools so as responsible stew-

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
1785 N. Fine Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

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Gin Manager Stan Creelman of Mid -Valley Cotton Growers at DPR workshop

ards of the land it is their duty to protect human health when growing their crop. These comments and others were critical in the public hearing process as the activists group present at last night's meeting was requesting an extension of the regulation to a 1-mile buffer zone enforced 24/7. If you would like more information or would like to sign on to our opposition letter you can do that at <http://www.ccgga.org/industry-call-to-action/>.

CCGGA Opposes ARB Freight Facility Survey for 2017

The **California Air Resources Board (CARB)** held a public workshop to discuss "Data Collection and Freight Hub Survey" as part of CARB's Sustainable Freight Strategy. This issue from early on has been an extreme concern of the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations**

(**CCGGA**) as the loose term of freight facility and warehouse/distribution center could include cotton ginning operations among other agricultural post-harvest facilities. This is critical as CARB eyes future rulemaking that, while not explicit stating it, could lead to the potential of a facility based diminishing emissions cap. **Director of Regulatory Affairs Jodi Raley** was among the very few participants in the workshop and the only agricultural organization to comment on the matter. CCGGA's comments included opposition to the survey presented as we believe the questions asked are not needed, contain sensitive information or data can be attained through CARB's current resources. Additionally, CCGGA commented on the concern our Association has with CARB's aggressive survey approach as it was just a month ago that the agriculture industry received the Large-Spark Ignition (aka Forklift) and Transportation Refrigeration Unit survey. CARB claims that they are still developing the definition and criteria of facilities that would be included on this survey, however they are stating they are eyeing a potential 55,000 facilities that they have identified thus far based off of tax assessor document along with aerial imaging identifying loading docks/bays. We will be following up with detailed comments and continued pressure to identify who will be targeted for this survey.