



The Cotton Chronicle

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

www.ccgga.org

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Industry Calendar

Proposition 15 Has Been Defeated!!

It's official now! **Proposition 15 has gone down to defeat!** This victory over the largest property tax hike in the history of California



was only possible due to the hard work, effort and financial support of all who opposed it. We want to thank all of you who helped support the effort and for taking the time and spending the money to see this costly proposition be defeated. It is one of many battles, but it an important one. It also reminds us what we can do when we all work together towards a common goal. We especially want to thank and recognize our members that stepped up and helped financially support this effort, including, like **Bone Farms, Borba Farms, County Line Gin, Cross Creek II Gin, Farmers Cooperative Gin, Gilkey Five, Modern Ginning Company, Sage Creek Ranch, Seasholtz Farms, Teixeira & Sons, Dos Palos Cooperative Gin, Hansen Ranches, Brian Wattle Farms, Greg Wattle Ranch, Julia Scott, Robinsons Sheet Metal, Todd Landry, J. Loogman and McKean Farms.** Great job, everyone! Take some time and enjoy this one!

Invitation to Attend US Cotton Trust Protocol Webinar

On behalf of the US Cotton Trust Protocol and the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association you are invited and urged to participate in a live US Cotton Trust Protocol information webinar for AZ, CA, NM and TX El Paso Valley producers scheduled for **Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:30 am PST/8:30 MST.** To register for this webinar, copy and paste this

link into your browser:

<https://zoom.us/join/joinme/tJEpd-CtrD0jGtJNOt-Rz9buwNURX7c1Ln9n>

As you may be aware, the Trust Protocol is a US cotton industry effort to validate sustainability practices, provide confidence and ensure demand for US cotton among brands and retailers. The purpose of these webinars will be to inform producers of the value of joining the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol and provide instructions on how to join. Participation in the Protocol by producers is critical to its success. (Reg IO) supports this effort and urges your partici-



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pation in this webinar. If you are unable to participate in this session, please copy and paste this link below into your browser for a complete list of all regional webinars. All program information will be similar. <https://trustuscotton.org/enrollment-webinar-live-sessions/> Please contact us or Marjory Walker (mwalker@cotton.org), Ken Burton (kburnton@cotton.org), Craig Brown (cbrown@cotton.org) or Tas Smith (tsmith@cotton.org) if you have questions. Thanks for your attention to this request.

Trump Administration finalizes Plan to Raise Shasta Dam

The Trump Administration has now released the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to increase water storage capacity in the Shasta Lake reservoir by 634,000 acre-feet,

CCGGA Staff

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

Christopher McGlothlin
Director of Technical
Services
chris@ccgga.org

Priscilla Rodriguez
Director of Regulatory
Affairs
priscilla@ccgga.org

Shana Colby
Administrative Assistant
shana@ccgga.org

or more than 200 billion gallons. This is enough water to support more than 6 million Californians annually.

“President Trump has made investing in our existing infrastructure a top priority. Raising Shasta Dam is one of the smartest and most cost-effective opportunities we have before us,” **said Commissioner Brenda Burman**. “Shasta Dam sits at the head of California’s largest water system—the Central Valley Project. Not only will the project benefit farms, communities and the environment, it will provide ample opportunities for smarter water management.” There has not been any major federal water storage infrastructure built since 1979 even as the state’s population has nearly doubled.

Shasta Dam is a keystone of Reclamation’s Central Valley Project, which extends over 400 miles through California’s Central Valley providing water for more than three million acres of farmland, nearly six million people, and critical fish and wildlife species. Reliable water is critical to the economic progress of the region – and our nation – as more than 40 % of the country’s fruits, nuts and vegetables are grown in the Central Valley, largely using water from the CVP and its largest reservoir—Shasta Lake. “We are pleased to achieve this significant milestone for such an important project for the state, **said Regional Director Ernest Conant**. “California needs a more reliable water supply for agriculture and communities, and modernizing our existing infrastructure is one of the most efficient means to make that happen.”

Congress first directed Reclamation to look at the feasibility of raising Shasta Dam in the 1980s, and then again in 2004. More recently, recognizing the need for increased surface water storage and the need to find funding mechanisms that work in today’s vastly over-stretched federal budget, Congress passed the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act in 2016 with broad bipartisan support. Reclamation and other federal agencies have spent decades carefully evaluating data to ensure an environmentally sound approach to raising Shasta Dam. The dedicated environmental storage from the dam raise would improve water quality in the Sacramento River below the dam by lowering water temperatures for anadromous fish survival, such as Chinook salmon and other fish that migrate from the ocean to rivers to spawn. This includes ensuring that the McCloud River and the important wild trout fishery it supports are protected. The finalized SEIS comes after considering more than 6,500 public comments on a proposal to raise the 600-foot-tall Shasta Dam by 3%, or an additional 18.5 feet.

USDA Declaration of Major Disaster

On August 22, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a major disaster declaration (FEMA-4558-DR), due to wildfires that occurred August 14, 2020 - September 26, 2020. On October 15, 2020, the declaration FEMA-4558-DR was amended. As a result, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Emergency Loan Program has been made available for the primary counties of **Lassen and Tulare**, and the contiguous counties of **Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, and Sierra** in the State of California for both physical and crop production losses. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is providing the enclosed information regarding this designation.

Eligible Primary County/ Counties or Land(s):	Lassen, Tulare
Eligible Contiguous County/ Counties:	Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra
Event:	August 22, 2020, Presidential Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4558-DR) was amended as a result of wildfires that occurred August 14, 2020 - September 26, 2020
Assistance made available by designation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency farm loans for both physical and crop production losses as a direct result of the disaster • Up to a maximum of \$500,000
Application deadline:	June 15, 2021
Who may apply:	Farmers and ranchers who conduct family-sized farming operations
How to apply:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office listed in the local telephone directory under U.S. Government, Agriculture • Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD)
USDA website for additional information:	https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-and-programs/index

How to Certify your Exemption with CalSavers

CalSavers is a workplace retirement savings program, for private sector workers whose employers do not offer a retirement plan. By June 30, 2022, all employers with five or more employees will be required to either provide a retirement plan for their workers or register for CalSavers and facilitate employees' contributions to Individual Retirement Accounts.

Deadlines for compliance vary according to the size of the business.

CalSavers compliance deadlines, by business size.

Size of Business	Deadline
Over 100 employees	September 30, 2020
Over 50 employees	June 30, 2021
5 or more employees	June 30, 2022

If you will not be enrolling into CalSavers because you provide a retirement plan for your workers you must still certify your exemption. These is the information you will need to certify your exemption on the CalSavers website https://employer.calsavers.com/californiaertpl/enroll/createEmp/viewCollectEmpPreRegDetails.cs?request_locale=en_US

- CA Payroll Tax Number
- Federal EIN/TIN
- Access Number (Provided by Cal Savers, you can request <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1402717/1785/>)

It is a simple process. The questions you will be asked will be the following:

Q. Do you currently offer a qualified retirement plan to your employees?

Q. We currently offer this type of plan to one or more of our employees (choose at least one)

403(a) - Qualified Annuity Plan or 403(b) Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plan

408(k) - Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) plans

408(p) - Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE) IRA Plan

401(a) – Qualified Plan (including profit-sharing plans and defined benefit plans)

401(k) plans (including multiple employer plans or pooled employer plans)

Payroll deduction IRAs – must have automatic enrollment

After responding to the questions and if you qualify, you will be provided your Certificate of exemption. This exemption will remain effective in accordance with the CalSavers program rules and as long as your company

continues to offer a qualified retirement plan.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to our office at (559)252-0684.

Carriers Forego Ag Exports for Large Import Payouts

The tree nut industry has been hit hard in the past couple of weeks with rolled or cancelled bookings, with the latest news being rumored that at least two major carriers have cancelled all export bookings until March! At a time the tree nut industry can least afford it, our members have been hit with multiple rolled or cancelled bookings, and an inability to get any kind of containers to ship their products. This is solely due to the huge influx of imports coming from Asia, particularly China, and the overwhelming demand to get “empty containers” back to Asia as soon as possible. Carriers are willing to forego the few hundred dollars per container they'll receive for ag exports for a huge payout to get the empty containers back to Asia and return containers full of imports back to the US at rates as much as \$5,000 per container! Association President/CEO Roger Isom stated “this has brought our industry to its knees at the absolute most inopportune time. Carriers are willing to forego longtime relationships to capitalize financially on the unintended impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.” In response, WAPA has been working with Senator Dianne Feinstein's office and California Congressional delegation, as well as working directly with the Department of Commerce and the Ports of Oakland, Long Beach and Los Angeles. The Association is also working with the Ag Transportation Coalition AgTC, five District Export Councils (DECs) and International Trade Commission, and discussions planned this week with the Federal Maritime Commission and the Maritime Administration. UPDATE: The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) announced an investigation into cargo shipping companies on issues facing ports on the West Coast including container availability and ag export delays. Specifically, the FMC is going to conduct an investigation that will “seek to determine if the policies and practices of those shipping companies related to detention and demurrage, container return, and container availability for U.S. export cargoes violate 46 U.S.C. 41102(c)”. This is a huge step in the right direction, and we hope will work to start to turn this major crisis around! Earlier this week, the Association had provided each of the FMC commissioners with a detailed summary of the issues our members are facing with regards to container availability and export de-

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

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lays. In addition, our California Congressional delegation has been communicating with the FMC, particularly Congressmen Costa and Cox. Stay tuned for further updates.

66TH SUPIMA ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for the **66th Supima Annual Meeting**. Given the current challenges we all face with the pandemic and social distancing, **Supima will be holding this year's meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. PST.** Members and all segments of the industry will have the opportunity to learn about Supima's current and future activities. The program will include an update of our promotional and licensing activities along with an ELS market update and other pertinent news.

Virtual registration is open now by emailing Nancy Boyd by Monday, December 7 at NANCY@SUPIMA.COM. Instructions for the Zoom call will be provided upon registration.

When: Tuesday, December 8th

Where: ZOOM

Meeting: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

RSVP by Monday, December 7th

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