

The Cotton Chronicle

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

www.ccgga.org



May 2021

Volume 31, Issue 5

Industry Calendar

Golf Tournament
May 11
Lemoore, CA

Annual Meeting
May 12
Tulare, CA

Board Meeting
June 2

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

State DWR Announces First 6 SGMA Projects to be Funded

Today, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced the funding recommendation to fully award the available \$26 million of Proposition 68 grant funding to 6 awardees. This money is from the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program Implementation Round 1 and goes toward projects that will help support Critically Over-drafted (COD) Basins. The six projects awarded are as follows:

Organization Name	Project	Award
Fresno Irrigation District	Kings Basin 2021 GSP Implementa-	\$4,866,600
Madera County	Eastside Bypass Recharge for Sub-sidence and Flood Risk Reduction	\$4,197,600
Madera County	East Madera Sub-basin Recharge Pro-	\$4,197,600
Merced Irrigation District	Southern Merced Subbasin Recharge	\$4,999,800
Mid-Kaweah GSA	Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Re-charge and Sustain-ability Projects	\$3,776,400
Westlands Water District GSA	The Pasajero Groundwater Re-charge Project	\$3,962,400

The SGM Grant Program received 15 applications totaling over \$70 million in requested grant funds. The six recommended award grants are comprised of 16 individual construction projects within COD basins that will con-

struct seven new and expand three existing recharge basin covering over 130 acres.

Cotton Industry Says Goodbye to Skeet Trapnell

Robert Gary "Skeet" Trapnell, 79, died March 15, 2021 at Cedar Plantation in Metter, Georgia, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Skeet was a graduate of Metter High School, The Georgia Institute of Technology, and The Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California. Upon graduation from Georgia Tech in 1963, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he proudly served as a naval aviator for 20 years, flying combat during the Vietnam War. After retirement from the Navy, he settled in Lemoore, California, where he became involved in farming and agri-business. He was employed by Harris Farms as the cotton gin manager, one of the corporate pilots, and co-manager of the crop dusting operation, a company in which he later became a partner and expanded the scope to include a custom farming operation. He was instrumental in the design and construction of the Harris-Woolf almond processing plant and briefly managed that facility as well. Skeet was one of the earliest growers of pistachios in Kings County, California, developing his own orchard shortly before his retirement from the Navy. As with anything he attempted, he established a first class operation, and prospective new growers often sought his advice, which he freely and enthusiastically gave. He was called out of retirement from "public work", as he called it, two additional times to help develop a concrete crushing operation for his friend Dave Bush, of Dave Bush Construction and by former employer

John Harris to assist in the establishment of an organic garlic processing plant. Active in civic affairs, Skeet was a member of the Kings County Planning Commission, serving as chairman for two terms. He was a member and chairman of the Clark's Fork Water Conservation District, and a member of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Advisory Committee. Although Skeet often said he would die with his boots on in his beloved orchard, the pull of home became stronger, and he and his wife Jan decided to sell their California holdings in 2017 and retire in their hometown of Metter, Georgia.

He is survived by his wife of 29 years Jan Cromartie Trapnell, a stepson, Hugh E. "Hec" Cromartie, III (Connie) of Eastvale, CA, a stepdaughter Jana (Thomas) Sasser of Edisto Island, SC, a brother, Jerry (Sally) Trapnell of Clemson, SC, five step grandsons, Jackson, Memphis and Lincoln Cromartie, and T.C. and Robert Esten Sasser. Services were held back in March in Georgia. Remembrances may be made to the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, FDR Station, PO Box 220, New York, NY 10150, or Metter United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 595, Metter, GA 30439.

California Energy Commission to Host Meeting on Building Decarbonization

If you think you've heard it all, you haven't. On April 30th, the California Energy Commission (CEC) is hosting a workshop on their ***Draft Building Decarbonization Assessment***. AB 3232 require the CEC to assess the technical feasibility of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from residential and commercial buildings 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. So, what does that mean? The CEC is trying to figure out what it will take to reduce a building's greenhouse gas emissions from things like natural gas heaters and air conditioning units, by making them electric as an example. The fact that this proposal includes existing commercial units should have everyone concerned. The Association is greatly worried and will be tracking this issue closely. On a side note, homeowners should be concerned too. It's one thing for new homes to be all electric, but quite another to mandate conversions on existing buildings and homes.

State Insurance Commissioner to Investigate Commercial Insurance Issue

Responding to the Association, **State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara** has issued an information request



from all commercial insurance carriers operating in California on the availability and cost of commercial insurance for business operating in California. This follows meetings in Sacramento and in our office on the issue with Commissioner Lara, where the Association reported on the overwhelming lack of commercial insurance following the devastating wildfires in the state, and the cost of insurance that is available. The Commissioner has given insurance companies 60 days to respond to the request with a deadline of June 14th, 2021. While this is no guarantee our issue is going to be resolved this year, at least the Commissioner is following through on his promise to investigate the issue and put serious pressure on the insurance industry to not penalize those of us who have nothing to do with the wildfires. Stay tuned for more details as the investigation continues.

Cotton Trust Protocol for 2021 Open

Enrollment in the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol for 2021 is now open. By joining, growers will be able to help demonstrate to brands and retailers that the United States is a leader in more sustainable cotton growing practices. The Trust Protocol also will help improve growers' own sustainability efforts by allowing them to analyze and compare data year over year from their operations against state and national averages. Enroll or re-enroll today at www.TrustUSCotton.org. If you have any questions on enrollment, please reach out to growers@trustuscotton.org and be sure to follow the Trust Protocol on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trustuscotton/ and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/trustuscotton/ for all the latest updates. Also available is a recent Sustainable Brands article at <https://bit.ly/3e1SBxz> as well as the latest animation on biodiversity at www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6LvJIF1HkM that was created for Earth Day.

Port Issues Remain

The backup of ships at the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland remain, although they are slightly improving. The backlog is truly hampering exports, and cotton is no exception. The Association joined nearly 300 agriculture companies and associations on a letter to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg containing their request for the Department of Transportation's immediate intervention to protect U.S. exporters and their access to foreign markets due to challenges imposed by vessel-operating common carriers (VOCCs), which they say are 1) declining to ship U.S. agricultural commodity exports from U.S. ports and 2) imposing hundreds of millions of dollars of punitive charges already determined to be unreasonable by the Federal Maritime Commission. The letter stated that, "VOCCs are delivering massive volumes of imported shipments to U.S. ports and then electing to leave without refilling empty containers with American goods and products. Whereas shipping containers filled with imported goods are normally unloaded, sent to rural areas, filled with agricultural commodities and then shipped abroad, the lucrative freight rates paid by the import cargo, combined with congestion and delay at ports on our West and East Coasts are leading VOCCs to immediately return empty containers to their overseas ports of origin." The situation is exacerbated by carriers' failure to provide accurate notice to our exporters of arrival/departure and cargo loading times, and then imposing draconian financial penalties on the exporters for "missing" those loading windows – a practice that the Federal Maritime Commission has found to be unreasonable. The groups asked the Department "to assist the Commission in expediting its enforcement options. Additionally, we urge the Department of Transportation to consider its existing authorities to determine how it can assist with the transportation needs of the U.S. exporters and the farmers and ranchers they serve, in overcoming the current challenges in shipping goods and products."

Register Now for the CCGGA Annual Meeting

Register now for the **2021 California Cotton Ginner & Growers Annual Meeting** to be held on **Wednesday, May 12th** at the **International Agri-Center located at 4500 S. Laspina in Tulare, California**. Registration packets have been mailed out all regular and associate members. You can also find the registration form on our website [here](#). There is an information packed agenda that begins at 7:30 with registration and ends following lunch. The fea-

tured speaker will be **Dan Walters from CalMatters**. Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers, and has written more than 9,000 columns for the **Sacramento Union and the**



Sacramento Bee and continues his column for CAL-matters, a non-profit journalistic organization which distributes to dozens of California news outlets. He has written about California and its politics for a number of other publications, including the Wall Street Journal. He is also an author and contributor, two books of which are, "*The Third House: Lobbyists, Power and Money in Sacramento*" and "*The New California: Facing the 21st Century*".

Association staff has met with Agri-Center staff and COVID safety protocols will be in place for now including mask requirements and social distancing. For the agenda and registration form please visit our website at <https://ccgga.org/california-cotton-ginners-and-growers-associations-2021-annual-meeting/>. **Attendance is free, but you must be registered!**

CCGGA Hosting Golf Tournament PAC Fundraiser May 11th

This year, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association invites you to join us at Lemoore Municipal Golf Course on May 11th for a PAC Fundraiser Golf Tournament. The tournament is being held the day before CCGGA's Annual Meeting at the International Agri-Center in Tulare on May 12th. Registration for the golf tournament is \$100 per player. Registration includes practice balls on the range, green fees and cart, as well as a tri tip sandwich lunch. Registration for the event starts at 8 am, with the shotgun start at 9 am. Payment for the event must be made via check. If you wish to donate to the Association's Federal PAC, we ask that you provide a personal check. Due to Federal PAC donations requirements, contributions for Federal PACs cannot be made via company check. Please find the tournament notice and registration page below. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Chris McGlothlin at chris@ccgga.org, or by phone t (559) 547-0288.

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

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
FRESNO, CA
PERMIT NO. 2509

Go Electronic!

Do you want our Newsletter & Latest News directly to your inbox? Send your name and email address to info@ccgga.org and we'll get you on the list to receive our important and informative monthly newsletter electronically. It's easy!

WWW.CCGGA.ORG

2021 Annual Meeting of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association

May 12th, 2021
International Agri-Center
4500 S. Laspina, Tulare, California

**Must
Register
to Attend!**

**COVID
Safety
Protocols
will be in
place!**

Registration Form

Company Name: _____

Attendee Name: _____ email: _____ Ginner Grower

Attendee Name: _____ email: _____ Ginner Grower

Attendee Name: _____ email: _____ Ginner Grower

Attendee Name: _____ email: _____ Ginner Grower

Breakout Session — Check the one you will be attending (*complete the form for each attendee*)

Ginners Track	NCGA Report / USDA ARS Gin Lab Update / Air Quality Incentives
Growers Track	Air Quality Incentives / Variety Trials and Fusarium Update / Crop Protection Chemical Update

Please fill out the registration form above and Fax to: (559) 252-0551 or email: Shana@ccgga.org
See you there!