



The Cotton Chronicle

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

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Industry Calendar

July 19, 2023
American Pima
Grade Standards
Guide Box Review
and Standards
Matching
Visalia, CA

CCGGA Staff

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

Priscilla Rodriguez
Assistant Vice President
priscilla@ccgga.org

Christopher McGlothlin
Director of Technical
Services
chris@ccgga.org

Michelle Franco
Administrative Assistant
michelle@ccgga.org

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Association Recognizes Steve Wilbur



At the 2023 CCGGA Annual Meeting, the Association recognized the longtime contributions of past Chairman **Steve Wilbur** and presented him with the Association's Distinguished Service Award. Association **President/CEO Roger Isom** stated, "This is an award that we do not give out often, which I believe speaks to the prestige of the award. To me, this award means something, and should only be given out to those who are truly deserving and Steve Wilbur is more than deserving!" The award is intended to highlight those who are dedicated to the industry and to ensuring the success of the California Cotton Ginner or Grower. This year's honoree is no exception. He is a past Chairman of the Association handling the reigns from 2014 to 2016 during the transition into our Joint Association. He served as a board member to the Association representing Tulare County from 2008 to 2022. He also served on the board of Cotton Incorporated from 1998 to 2020, where he also served as the Chairman of the Cotton Incorporated State Support Committee and Chairman of our Joint Research Committee for more than 10 years. Furthermore, he has

served on the board of Mid Valley Cotton Growers since 1989 and served as Chairman of their board since 1992. Steve served as a member of the California Cotton Alliance for many years. He was the Tulare Farmer of the Year in 2002 and served as Chairman of the World Ag Expo in 2022. This list of activities clearly demonstrates his commitment to this Association and to the entire cotton industry and it is more than obvious why Steve Wilbur is very deserving of this award.

Associations Join Forces to Tackle Sacramento

This month the leadership of both the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) and Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) went to Sacramento for three days and had meetings on regulatory and legislative issues. The Associations' Executive leadership and staff met with legislative and regulatory representatives on a multitude of critical issues including water rights legislation, FARMER funding, property and stock throughput insurance, the proposed indoor heat illness regulation, water quality fees, air quality legislation for the SJV, funding of water projects for medium and high priority area GSAs, port issues, and several other important topics. The entourage met with legislators including **Assemblyman David Alvarez (80th)**, **Assemblywoman**



an Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (4th), Assemblyman Josh Lowenthal (69th), Assemblyman Juan Carrillo (39th), Assemblyman Vince Fong (32nd), Assemblyman James Gallagher (3rd), Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria (27th),



Assemblyman Greg Wallis (47th), Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner (77th), and the staff of Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur, and Senator Lena Gonzalez (33rd). The group also met with Agency staff from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Director Katie Hagen, State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and State Water Resources Control Board Member Dorene D'Adamo. CCGGA was represented by Chairman Matt Toste, First Vice Chair Gary Martin, Second Vice Chair Adriane Carbonel and Secretary/Treasurer Jake Cauzza. WAPA was represented by First Vice Chair Pat Andersen, Past Chairman Michael Kelley and Board Member John Rodriguez. Association staff included President/CEO Roger Isom, Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez and Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin.

Association Spearheads Meeting on Electric Infrastructure and Rates

The Association organized and held an extremely important meeting in Modesto on the State's move to electrify trucks and forklifts given electric infrastructure constraints and soaring electricity rates. Attendees included representatives from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Energy Commission (CEC), GoBiz, PG&E, and Southern California Edison. On the industry side, organizations represented included Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA), California Trucking Association (CTA), Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA), California Fresh Fruit Association (CFFA), California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF), California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) and Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA). A lot of discussion centered on electric infrastructure, or the lack thereof, with both utilities admitting there are constraints. It also became apparent that nobody fully understands the need or demand that will be generated by the conversion to electric trucks and forklifts. One of the surprising revelations was the discussion on the demand fast charging stations for trucks will place on the system, as each fast-charging station will need one megawatt or more demand! Considering the

number of trucks in the state the situation could be dire. The other big issue was the rates and where they are headed. AECA and the Association highlighted our rates compared to the rest of the US and how high California is. Action items include looking at load studies and surveys, potential legislation and additional meetings.

SCE Proposes Major Rate Increase in Next General Rate Case

Southern California Edison has proposed a 45% rate increase over already approved 2024 rates, which would generate another \$3.9 billion in revenue for SCE. This follows the proposed 46% increase in rates by PG&E by 2026. With the state's push to electrify everything how can businesses survive in this state? The association will be working with the Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA) on both of these important general rate cases (GRCs). Association President/CEO Roger Isom is the President of the Board of AECA and Association Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez also sits on the AECA Board of Directors, so this will be a priority!

SCE 2025 GRC				
	Revenue Requirement	\$ increase	Total \$ increase over 2024 rates	% increase over 2024 rates
2024	\$8.367B			
2025	\$10.267B	\$1.9B	\$1.9B	23% increase
2026	\$10.985B	\$619M	\$2.5B	30% increase
2027	\$11.549B	\$664M	\$3.2B	38% increase
2028	\$12.253B	\$704M	\$3.9B	45% increase

Association CCGGA Hosts 2023 Annual Meeting in Tulare

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association hosted its 2023 Annual Meeting at the International Agri Center in Tulare, California. More than 100 participants attended the informative meeting with speakers covering a multitude of important issues. The morning began with the financial report from the Association's auditing firm Spafford and Landry. Then the group broke into two sections: ginners and growers. The ginners were provided with updates from the National Cotton Ginners Association and its activities, the USDA ARS Southwest Cotton Ginning Laboratory and the research they are conducting, and finally an update from NCC Vice President Harrison Ashley on Bale Contamination and insurance issues facing cotton gins. Meanwhile the growers were briefed on the latest crop protection tools from Syngenta, FMC,





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Bayer Crop Science, and Nichino. They were presented with an update on research surrounding the invasive species known as the Cotton Seed Bug now found in four counties in California. Both groups came back together to listen to a panel discussion on the US Cotton Trust Protocol. Moderated by the NCC's **Niki Gallian**, cotton grower **Aaron Barcellos**, and Target spokesperson **Kirk Smithwick** talked about the cotton sustainability project and what it means to their respective industries. Later Association staff led, by **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez** and **Director of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin**, presented the important issues the Association is tackling. At lunch the discussion centered on water in California and included **Ernest Conant** with the **US Bureau of Reclamation**, and **Nancy Vogel** with the **California Natural Resources Agency**. It was an information packed day that was well attended!



2023 American Pima Grade Standards Guide Box Review and Standards Matching

Please join us to review, comment, and approve the six guide boxes of the 2023 American Pima Grade Standards. Once approved, the guide boxes will be used as the reference to match all the 2023 American Pima Grade Standards. The guide box review and the standards matching will both take place the morning of Wednesday, July 19th at Visalia, California Classing Office 10:00am. Industry participation is key to this process, we hope you all can come and be a part of this important annual event. For additional information please contact either Greg Townsend at (559) 651-3015 and email at greg.townsend@usda.gov or Gretchen Deatherage at (901) 384-3030 and email at Gretchen.deatherage@usda.gov.

Following ACF Passage, Association Pushes Back on Electrical Infrastructure Capabilities

In April, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved the regulatory framework for the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation (ACF). ACF would require that applicable businesses begin replacing existing on-road diesel equipment with Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV's) as part of a phased-in

timeline. Existing diesel-engine trucks would be granted 18 years of useful life, or 800,000 miles whichever comes first. During the April CARB Board Meeting to approve the ACF Regulation, the Association detailed a common experience amongst the agricultural industry – long delays for the most basic connectivity tasks. Ultimately, these delays will harm California businesses simply trying to make the necessary changes required to stay in compliance and in business. Over the course of the 2-day session, CARB Board Members heard over 120 different commenters speaking on the proposed regulation. Only three of those 120 commenters were from the agricultural industry, with a majority of the remaining commenters speaking on behalf of environmental organizations located throughout the state. Those organizations rallied the Board to be stricter in their enforcement of the rule, asking to lower the fleet threshold from 50 to 10, and to expedite the total sale of ZEV's from 2040 to 2036. In the end, the Board accepted the expedited ZEV sales requirement to 2036, but left off the lowered fleet threshold requests. CARB staff also incorporated specific compliance extensions for industry to use if specific delays are experienced. From equipment manufacturing delays to utility infrastructure delays, businesses would be given between 2-5 years in order to comply with the rule. Aside from the examples of delays, the Association highlighted concerns about the cost of ZEV's as well as the limited fleet availability for specialty equipment used within the industry. The Association had also previously reached out to a module mover manufacturer who listed an initial quote of \$485,000 for an all-electric model, which would be infeasible for any cotton farmer across the United States, let alone in California. Following the meeting, several Board Members echoed Association concerns regarding electrical connectivity, and tasked the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and California Energy Commission (CEC) with updates to the Board every year on how their efforts to interconnect these facilities was going. In our opinion, this effort wasn't enough, so the Association organized an informational meeting with Ag organizations as well as representatives of the EC, CPUC, PG&E, SoCal Edison, CARB and the San Joaquin Valley Air District. At the meeting, the two utility companies in attendance detailed little-to-no plans to install or increase the number of electrical substations, stating that they felt the demand developed through this rule would be serviceable by the current infrastructure. That is, until it was revealed that current charging stations would require 1 Megawatt of power per charger/truck, and that 20 chargers would constitute a new substation. Larger fleets converting over to electric would easily

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trigger the need for substations throughout the state. While revelations like this should have been flushed out through the regulatory process, it was productive to highlight these concerns with staff in the room. The Association anticipates organizing another meeting later in the fall to help flesh out further issues with the rule moving forward. Stay tuned!

Safety Training Workshops a Success

Last month, the Association concluded the safety training workshops and webinars coordinated in conjunction with WAPA. The trainings included Forklift Train-the-Trainer and Webinars on the following topics: Hazard Communication, Heat Illness Prevention, and Blood Borne Pathogens. These Train-the-Trainer workshops are for Owners, Managers, Su-

pervisors, Safety Personnel or those who are responsible for training. There were more than 75 participants for the Forklift Train-the-Trainer sessions and over 100 participants for the webinars.

CCIRC Research Request for Proposal

The California Cotton Industry Research Committee, made up from the three principal funding groups for California cotton research, sends out a "Request for Proposal" each year to researchers and educators known to the cotton industry as having interests and involvement in research that could benefit the cotton industry in California. By combining the research funding efforts from these three groups into one, projects are funded through a more streamlined and effective process. The RFP will be mailed out this month; the research request is for 2023-2024 projects. The deadline for **receipt** of proposals at our office 1785 N. Fine Ave, Fresno, CA 93727 is 5:00 PM (close of business day) on **Monday, August 29, 2023**. This is a firm deadline. No extensions will be granted due to the need to reproduce proposals, distribute them to the committee, and allow time for review prior to the Committee meeting. If you have any questions, reach out to priscilla@ccgga.org

