



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

CCGGA Research Meeting
Sept. 9, 2025

CCGGA Board Meeting
Sept. 10, 2025

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Association's Legislative Bills Keep on Moving

Key legislation that the Association is sponsoring or co-sponsoring is continuing to move through the legislative process. All three bills are now in the second house.

AB 732 (Macedo) would give more authority to the County Ag Commissioners to take action on abandoned or neglected properties passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee on a 5-0 vote on July 1st.

Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom testified at the hearing stating that action is needed to help control unwanted pests and rodents from abandoned or unattended orchards and fields. **AB 1046 (Bains)** would exempt tree nut processing operations from having to comply with reporting requirements for sending waste to a landfill, since they don't send anything to a landfill. The bill passed out of Senate Environment unanimously on consent this past week. Finally, **SB 279 (McNerney)** is a bill that would increase the permitting exemption for agricultural composting operations from 1,000 cubic yards to 5,000 cubic yards. It passed out of Assembly Natural Resources unanimously this week.

Buying American Cotton Act

Earlier this year, US Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS) introduced the **Buying American Cotton Act**. By leveraging the traceability of U.S. cotton and the purchasing power of U.S. consumers, the **Buy-**

ing American Cotton Act authorizes transferable tax credits to incentivize the consumption of U.S. cotton and U.S. cotton manufactured products. Eligible articles include cotton products, including

but not limited to apparel, home textiles, and nonwovens, either fully manufactured in the United States or imported into the United States, that

are made in whole or in part from U.S. extra-long staple cotton or upland cotton. This tax credit is eligible to the first U.S. entity who sells an eligible article in the United States in its final condition, meaning the product is now "ready for sale" at retail to the consumer. The taxpayer may claim the credit based on the value of the U.S. grown cotton in the eligible article, or instead, may elect to claim a higher-value credit based on the value of the U.S. manufactured yarn or the U.S. manufactured fabric, if the taxpayer can demonstrate the eligible article was made from U.S. manufactured yarn or fabric, respectively. Entities claim-

Senate Agriculture Committee, Tuesday, July 1, 2025



Welcome New Associate Members!

Resilient Earth

ing the tax credits must be able to demonstrate proof of U.S. origin through a trustworthy supply chain tracing system that certifies the provenance and volume of the cotton in the eligible article, or of the yarn or fabric if either of those credit options are selected. The value of the tax credit is determined as the product of the volume of U.S.-grown cotton in the eligible article and a factored percentage of the rolling three-year average market price. If the taxpayer elects a credit based on U.S.-manufactured yarn, the value is multiplied by a price factor of 1.6, and for U.S. manufactured fabric, multiplied by a price factor of 6.5, to incentivize and reward the consumption of U.S.-manufactured goods. In the case of an eligible article that is processed either wholly in the United States or in a country or countries with which the United States has entered into a free trade agreement or for which the United States has extended benefits through a preferential trade arrangement, a location factor of 24% is used. In the case of an eligible article that was subject to processing at any stage in any other country, a location factor of 18% is used.

EPA Proposes Attainment for San Joaquin Valley for 1997

PM_{2.5} Standard

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to determine that the San Joaquin Valley, California fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) non-attainment area attained the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). This proposed determination is based on ambient air quality monitoring data from 2022 through 2024. This is a very significant milestone for the San Joaquin Valley in terms of air quality. Unfortunately, EPA has kept moving the goalposts and established additional ambient air quality standards, especially for PM_{2.5} and the San Joaquin Valley has been forced to keep adopting rules and regulations to meet these tougher standards. The standard for which this ruling is being proposed is 15 µg/m³. New PM_{2.5} standards have since been established including 12 µg/m³ in 2012 and

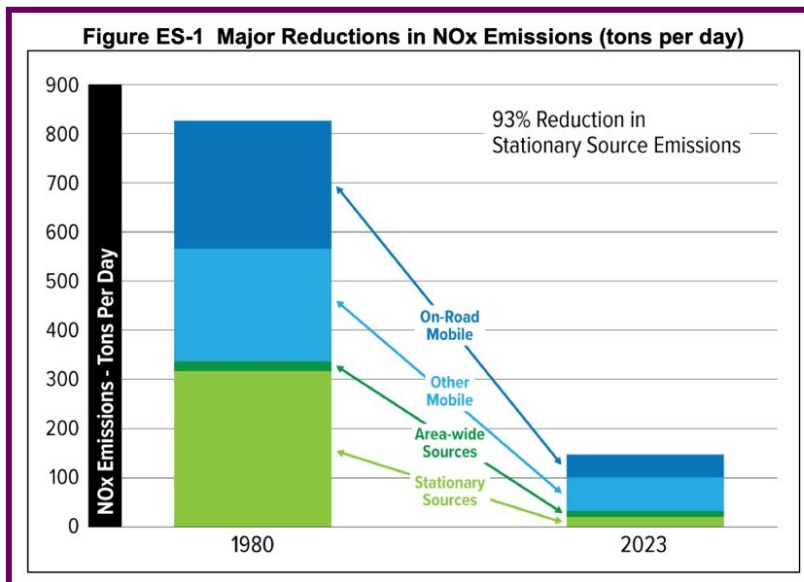
9 µg/m³ in 2024. To get to this status has been painful for industry given all of the rules and regulations that have been adopted and implemented to get to this point. According to the District emissions of air pollutants from stationary sources has been reduced by over 93%.

USDA Announces Disaster Relief

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins has announced that agricultural producers who suffered eligible crop losses due to natural disasters in 2023 and 2024 can now apply for \$16 billion in assistance through the [Supplemental Disaster Relief Program](#) (SDRP). The *American Relief Act, 2025*, provides disaster relief payments to producers who suffered revenue, quality or production losses to crops, trees, bushes, or vines due to qualifying disaster events in calendar years 2023 and 2024. The SDRP will be administered in two stages. Producers can receive payments in both stages, if applicable, and for one or both years, depending on losses.

Stage 1

Stage 1 will leverage existing Federal Crop Insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the



basis for calculating payments. This enrollment period is **currently active**. Crop, tree, and vine losses must be due to wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions occurring in calendar years 2023 and/or 2024. Drought losses must have occurred in a county rated by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) as having a D2 (severe

drought) for eight consecutive weeks, D3 (extreme drought) or greater intensity level during the applicable calendar year. Eligible counties from California include: Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa

Clara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma and Stanislaus Counties. Stay tuned for information on Stage 2.

SJV Air District Pauses Tractor Replacement Application Intake

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) sent notice to all stakeholders and equipment dealers that the application intake is being paused for the highly popular Ag Equipment Replacement Program on July 31st. Applications submitted prior to the deadline will be accepted and processed once funding is made available. The reasoning for the hold on application submittals is a combination of the large backlog of existing equipment replacement applications currently at the Air District, paired with a lack of funding provided by the State of California to achieve meaningful and significant emission reductions. The Equipment Replacement Program is the most cost-effective program in achieving the state's emission reduction goals.

The Association has submitted a formal letter to state legislative leadership, as well as discussed the need for equipment replacement funding with every legislator that we have met with this legislative session. We have been hopeful that a multi-year commitment will be developed in order to try and secure the necessary funding to keep the program working efficiently. With prior year's funding coming from the Cap & Trade Program, the legislature has signaled that there could be an opportunity to secure future year's funding through Cap & Trade program reauthorization negotiations. Stay tuned for more updates!

New Federal EPA Region IX Administrator Meets With Agriculture

Newly appointed Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IX Administrator **Josh Cook** came to the Valley this week to meet with agricultural groups to discuss critical air quality issues. Coordinated by the **Nisei Farmers League** and co-hosted by the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA)** and the **Western Tree Nut Association**



(WTNA), Regional Administrator Cook and his staff joined State Farm Service Agency (FSA) Director Connie Conway, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Carlos Suarez, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District APCO Samir Sheikh and his staff.

Discussion centered on federal issues, including the future of any waivers for mobile equipment, outstanding State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for the San Joaquin Valley, and federal incentive programs such as the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) and the Targeted Air Shed Grants. The group also discussed the impact of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and how agriculture may have to address any fallowed lands. Joining the NFL, CCGGA and WTNA on the agricultural side was **California Farm Bureau Federation, Fresno County Farm Bureau, California Citrus Mutual, California Fresh Fruit Association, Fresno Equipment Company, and the California Avocado Commission.** The Association was represented

by **President/CEO Roger A. Isom.** The meeting was held at **Fowler Packing.**

Cotton Harvest Safety Training

The Association has partnered with **Fresno County Farm Bureau** to host a **Cotton Harvest Safety Training on Tuesday, September 16, from 8:30-10:30 a.m.** at the **UC West Side**



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Research and Extension Center located at **17353 W. Oakland Ave in Five Points**. This training will be held concurrently in both English and Spanish.

The training will cover equipment safety (preparation and operation), electrical hazards, heat illness prevention and road safety. All information will be provided in English and Spanish. Certificates will be given upon completion. The training will be provided by Zenith Agribusiness Solutions. **There is no cost to attend**, and check-in will begin at 8 a.m. RSVP for the upcoming training [here](#).

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 process and effective process. This research request is for 2025 -2026 projects. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 5:00 PM (close of business day) on Monday, August 25, 2025. 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.

San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Urges Federal Action on Water Infrastructure

The **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley** today announced it has sent formal letters to both the San Joaquin Valley Congressional Delegation and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, urging significant federal investment in California’s water infrastructure. These letters underscore the urgent need to advance immediate and longer-term solutions to the Valley’s growing water supply crisis and advocate for strategic investments that

will protect agriculture, rural communities, and the environment. The Blueprint’s outreach follows the recent passage of the *One Big, Beautiful Bill Act*, which includes \$1 billion in federal funding for specific types of water infrastructure investments —a critical first step toward addressing an estimated \$12 billion funding need for projects of these types necessary to modernize California’s water system.

Key Points from the Letters:

- **Acknowledgment of Federal Support:** The Blueprint thanked Valley lawmakers for securing \$1 billion in the *One Big, Beautiful Bill Act*, recognizing it as a vital down payment on broader water infrastructure needs in California.
- **Call for Additional Investment:** The letters emphasize the need for further federal funding to support conveyance repairs on the Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, San Luis Canal, and California Aqueduct, as well as expanded water storage projects.
- **Economic and Environmental Urgency:** Citing the UC Davis study *Inaction’s Economic Cost for California’s Water Supply Challenges*, the Blueprint highlighted the potential loss of up to 9 million acre-feet of water annually by 2050, with projected economic damages of up to \$14.5 billion and the following of 3 million acres of farmland.
- **Appeal to Secretary Burgum:** The Blueprint urged the

Department of the Interior to prioritize California’s water infrastructure in federal planning and funding decisions, and to support collaborative, science-based solutions that benefit both people and ecosystems.

The Association is a member of the **San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint** and the Association’s **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez** sits on the Board of Directors.

