



The Cotton Chronicle

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

www.ccgga.org

October 2025

Volume 35, Issue 10

Industry Calendar

CCGGA/WTNA Joint
Steering Committee
Meeting
Nov. 14, 2025

CCGGA Board
Meeting
Dec. 2, 2025

CCGGA Staff

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

Priscilla Rodriguez
Assistant Vice President
priscilla@ccgga.org

Christopher McGlothlin
Assistant Vice President
of Technical Services
chris@ccgga.org

Michelle Franco
Bookkeeper/Admin
Assistant
michelle@ccgga.org

Association President/CEO Issues Call for Action

Serving as the Opening Speaker to *the 2025 Crop Consultant Conference*, hosted by *Progressive Crop Consultant Magazine* and the *Western Region Certified Crop Advisors*, Association **President/CEO**

Roger A. Isom challenged the crowd to “get involved and protect this industry” when it comes to issues like the new 1,3-D regulatory requirements for buffer zones and exclusion periods. Isom lamented these new restrictions were based on bad assumptions and bad precedents. He also commented this won’t be the last chemical to face additional restrictions or even possible elimination as the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) continues to move forward with their Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) agenda. “SPM has the primary goal of eliminating the top Priority Pesticides by 2050, and today’s talk should serve as a wakeup call to all of you in attendance”, implored Isom. Isom reported that these new buffer zones and exclusion periods assumed that field workers spent 14 to 28 days on a field edge shared with an 80 acre 1,3-D treated field every year for 40 years. This is not realistic and completely overstates the supposed risk and led to the overly restrictive buffer zone and exclusion periods. Isom also highlighted the 2024 CDPR field study where ambient measurements were taken over a 4 month period in Stanislaus county for 1,3-D, MITC and chloropicrin. None of

the 58 measurements taken exceeded 4% of the allowable concentrations, and CDPR stated in their summary “These findings suggest minimal risk from ambient exposure to the monitored pesticides during the study period.” Isom finished his talk stating “These are the facts that we need to be conveying to every legislator and giving right back to CDPR. The activists want us out and we need each and every one of you to help push back and tell our story. We have the right to farm here, and no one in the world does is safer or protects their workers better than we do!”



Association’s Legislation Headed to the Governor’s Desk

Key legislation that the Association is sponsoring or co-sponsoring this year has passed through both state legislative houses and headed to the Governor. **AB 732 (Macedo)** would give more authority to the County Ag Commissioners to take action on abandoned or

neglected properties. **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. 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. Each of these bills passed unanimously but were not without controversy. Some amendments were made on the bills, but ultimately the core of each bill remained, and we are very hopeful the Governor will sign all three

bills **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** testified at the Capitol at different times on all three bills.

Immigration Reform Discussions Continue

The Association attended a townhall roundtable discussion with **Congressman David Valadao (22nd)** and **Congressman Jim Costa (21st)** in Fresno, hosted by the **Nisei Farmers League and the Fresno County Farm Bureau**. More than 60 attendees participated in the townhall representing the agricultural, restaurant and hospitality and the construction industries. Discussion centered on the status of legislation including *the Dignity Act, the Farmworker Modernization Act, and the DREAM Act*. The congressman encouraged industry to get together and be united and to try and convince the President to support the effort for immigration reform. Other suggestions included getting other states, especially Republican states to help support the push for reform. Representing the Association was **President/CEO Roger A. Isom and Assistant**

Vice President of Technical Services Christopher McGlothlin.

NRCS California's Conservation Funding Assistance Deadline for Producers

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California has announced Fiscal Year 2026 (October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026) federal assistance opportunities for agricultural producers, including through

the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), the [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), and the [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#). While NRCS accepts applications for these programs year-round, interested applicants should apply no later than **November 21, 2025**, for the application cutoff period. "EQIP, CSP, and ACEP are amazing tools that empower our producers to turn their conservation plans into action to protect our land and



natural resources. They are how NRCS partners with producers to Keep Farmers Farming," said **California State Conservationist Carlos Suarez**. Application cutoff periods allow NRCS to screen and rank applications for those with the highest conservation benefits across California's landscapes, including cropland, ranchlands, and private non-industrial forestlands. Additional signups may be announced at later dates.

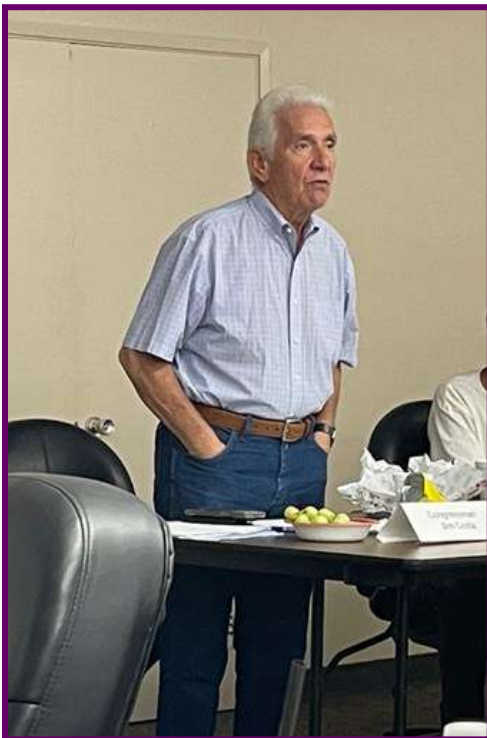
CARB Chair Departs- New Chair Appointed

Governor Gavin Newsom has abruptly announced that California Air Resources Board (CARB) **Chair Liane Randolph** will be retiring from state service effective Sep-

tember 30, 2025, and named **Senior Advisor to the Governor for Climate Lauren Sanchez** to serve as the next CARB Chair. Randolph departs the Board after five years of service as Chair. What can we expect from the new Chair? This is what the Governor had to say about Sanchez: "Lauren has been my most trusted climate advisor and the chief architect of California's bold climate agenda — helping deliver billions in new investments and cementing our state's role as the global leader in the fight for a clean, healthy, job-creating future. Sanchez has been Senior Advisor for Climate in the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom since 2021. She was Senior Advisor for the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate in the Biden-Harris Administration in 2021. Sanchez was Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy and Intergovernmental Relations at the California Environmental Protection Agency from 2019 to 2021. She was International Policy Director at the California Air Resources Board from 2018 to 2019. Sanchez was a Climate Negotiator at the United States Department of State from 2015 to 2017. Sanchez earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and Biology from Middlebury College. Sanchez will begin her term on October 1, but the position does require Senate Confirmation.

Association Hosts Gubernatorial Candidate Steve Hilton

In partnership with the **Nisei Farmers League**, the Association co-hosted Republican **Gubernatorial Candidate Steve Hilton** for a sit down with agricultural stakeholders at the CCGGA office. With his prior experience working as a Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor within the British Conservative Party, and hosting a weekly show on Fox News in the United States, Hilton



has become a more recognizable face within the crowded Governor's race.

Hilton opened the discussion by acknowledging the difficulties of having an "R" next to the name on the ballot in California, but detailed his perspective on the frustration with the current administration's priorities. Citing affordability for everyday Californians, energy unreliability, the limitation to develop

any substantial project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as the mountain of regulatory requirements levied on business, Hilton envisions that a large percentage of the state is fed up. Hilton then opened up the discussion to understand the big issues in agriculture.

Hilton heard perspective from several commodity organizations such as the **Western Tree Nut Association, California Citrus Mutual, the Nisei Farmers League, California Avocado Commission, American Pistachio Growers, California Apple Commission, California Blueberry Commission, California Olive Committee** as well as several business owners and operational managers. Hilton has some prior understanding of the significant issues agriculture faces such, as water availability, and increasing energy rates, and the current Federal Administration's ongoing immigration policy, but took the time to hear from each representative on their big-ticket items.

California Water Commission Awards \$10.9 Million in Early Funding for Sites Reservoir Project

The California Water Commission has approved \$10.9 million in early funding for the Sites Reservoir Project through the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP). The funding will support permitting and environmental review efforts as the project advances toward construction. "This additional funding will help the Authority secure key federal and state permits that will advance Sites Reservoir closer to construction," said Fritz Durst, Chair of the Sites Project Authority Board of Directors.

The Sites Reservoir, is designed to add 1.5 million acre-feet of storage capacity to California's system. Once completed, the project will improve the state's ability to capture and store water during wet years for use during droughts, while also providing dedicated supplies to protect fish and wildlife habitats.



Last month, Commissioners also recently adjusted the project's Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determination (MCED) for inflation, increasing its potential to secure additional early funding. Project leaders say this investment reflects growing recognition of the reservoir's role in delivering long-term reliability, flexibility, and resiliency to California's water supply. You can see the full news release [here](#).

Association Hosts Texas Ag Leadership Group

The **Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Cohort** was in California last month, and the Association hosted the group for a very special dinner at the Association offices in Fresno. Speaking at the event was the Association's **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez (CALF Class 50) and Assistant Vice President Christopher McGlothlin (CALF Class 52)**, who both shared their leadership journeys and experiences through the California Ag Leadership Program, as well as discussing the critical issues they are working on. In addition, special guest speakers also presented their experiences and issues including **Don Cameron, of Terranova Ranches and current Chairman of the Board of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Daniel Hartwig, President of the California Fresh Fruit association, and Mandy Critchley**



(CALF Class 37). Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom served as the host and emcee for the event.



Association Co-Hosts Cotton Safety Training

Last month, in partnership with **Fresno County Farm Bureau** and **The Zenith**, the Association co-hosted a pre-harvest safety training out at the Westside Research and Extension Center out in Five Points. Attendees were able to hear a presentations on equipment safety, and even get hands on with some tractors to learn how to stay. We would like to thank the Fresno County Farm Bureau and The Zenith for their partnership to keep workers safe during the upcoming season.



Association Attends Important Rodent Meeting at CDFA

The Association participated in an important meeting held at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to discuss the ongoing rodent crisis, especially rats and squirrels.

The Associations' President/CEO Roger A. Isom kicked off the meeting by stating "the rat crisis in the San Joaquin Valley is destructive and ongoing. It is costing our growers thousands in irrigation system replacement, and we are looking to this meeting to help develop a strategy on how we are going to tackle this issue." In addition to CDFA, other state and local agencies participating in the meeting included the **California Department of Public Health (CDPH)**, **California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR)**, **UC Cooperative Extension**, and the **Ag Commissioners from Fresno and Kings Counties**. Industry was well represented with attendees including the **California Farm Bureau**, **Almond Alliance of California**, **Almond Board of California**, **California Association of Pest Control Advisors**, and **California Citrus Mutual**. Representing the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association** and the **Western Tree Nut Association** were **Assistant Vice President Priscilla Rodriguez**, and **President/CEO Roger A. Isom**. Isom closed the meeting by asking the participants "...to have a sense of urgency. We have a grower who has replaced his entire irrigation system three times. We have another grower who went from a yield of 4,000 pounds of almonds per acre in 2023 to only 900 pounds per acre in 2024. This cannot be sustained, and we need every tool we can get to fight this issue."

Court Upholds Pesticide Use Permit Authority in Monterey

In a significant victory for agriculture, the Monterey County Superior Court decided in favor of California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and County Ag Commissioner's authority to issue restricted material's permits for fumigant use in Monterey County. Petitioners from 4 local teachers unions had challenged the existing authority for the government agencies to approve the use of restricted materials of chloropicrin and 1, 3-dichloropropene to fumigate fields intended to be planted in strawberries for applications proposed during the 2023 season.

The Court rejected Petitioners' arguments. The administrative record could not be expanded beyond what was presented to both CAC and Director. The "post hoc rationalization" theory failed because CAC inspectors performed their evaluations before issuance, and written explanations are only required when review is requested. The claim that CACs have authority to stay permits was forfeited and contrary to the statute, which grants stay authority only to the Director. Finally, Petitioners' "pattern and practice" claim could not stand once the core CEQA-based challenges failed.

This is a huge win for the industry, while also affirming DPR and the Ag Commissioner's authority to issue restricted material permits.