



The Cotton Chronicle

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Industry Calendar

NCC Annual Meeting
February 9-12, 2026

CCGGA Board Meeting
March 5, 2026

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Association Announces Election Results

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association is pleased to announce the re-election of the following board members. Re-elected to the board were the following Ginners: **Raymond Gomez, J.G. Boswell Company** and **Kirk Kilkey, Cross Creek II Gin LLC**. The following Growers were re-elected: **Fresno County: Gary Martin, Wyatt McKean and Renato Serrano; Tulare County, Doug Cardoza**. All board member positions are three-year terms.

Association Addresses National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology

The National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology hosted a meeting in conjunction with BEAM Circular at UC Merced this past week, and Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom was there to address the group and plead for solutions to the State's growing biomass problem. Isom was part of a key Agriculture Roundtable led by CDFA Undersecretary Christine Birdsong. Joining Isom and Birdsong on the panel were Peter Ansel, California

Farm Bureau Federation; Christine Gemperle, Gemperle Orchards; Lisandra Vitorino, California Dairy Campaign; and Dr. Joshua Viers, UC Merced. Isom highlighted the current plight by pointing out the state had more than 40 biomass plants operating at one time. Now there is only one in the San Joaquin Valley, and due to the implementation of SGMA, low commodity prices and the elimination of funds to chip and incorporate biomass materials back into the ground, the problem is exponentially greater now. Isom commented "We have met with more than 50 different biotechnology companies working to resolve the biomass issue and we can't get any of them to the finish line and become operational at any significant level. We need viable solutions, and we need them yesterday!"

Reclamation updates long-term operation plan for the Central Valley Project

This past week the Bureau of Reclamation signed a Record of Decision adopting an updated long-term operation plan for the Central Valley Project. The

decision advances actions designed to maximize water deliveries across California while maintaining protections for endangered fish species. "With the signing of this Record of Decision, we are delivering on the promise of Executive Order 14181 to strengthen California's water resilience," said Secretary of the Interior Doug Bur-gum. "This updated operations plan reflects our commitment to using the best available science to increase water deliveries



while safeguarding the environment and honoring the legacy of the Central Valley Project's 90 years of service." The revised plan responds to [Executive Order 14181](#), issued Jan. 24, 2025, which directs federal agencies to take all available measures to increase water deliveries from the CVP, including issuing a new Record of Decision consistent with federal law. "Action 5 represents a forward-looking approach to water management that balances the needs of California's communities, agriculture, and ecosystems," said **Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Andrea Travnicek**. "By refining real-time governance and operational flexibility, we are ensuring that every drop of water is managed with precision, accountability, and purpose."

Under the updated approach, the CVP may increase annual water deliveries by between 130 to 180 thousand acre-feet, and the State Water Project by 120 to 220 thousand acre-feet, depending on hydrologic conditions and subject to the State's adoption of Action 5. The updates improve the use of scientific modeling and analysis in operational criteria. Changes remain within the range analyzed in the 2024 Long-Term Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement and consistent with effects analyzed in the 2024 Biological Opinions issued by NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Key operational changes include adjustments to Delta export operations, removal of the Delta Summer and Fall Habitat Action and removal of early export-reduction concepts from the State of California's Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** stated "this type of action is what we all hoped for, and represents the balance so desperately needed. While it won't eliminate the devastating impact of SGMA, it will go a long way in helping to mitigate the damaging effects on farmers, agricultural processors and everyone that lives here."

CPUC Rejects Increase to Cost of Capital by Utilities

The California Public Utilities Commission set new levels for the Cost of Capital that represented a 0.3% decrease. While it may not be significant, it is opposite of the 1% increase that the utilities had originally proposed back in March. Prior to this new decision PG&E had proposed to increase the cost of capital from 10.28% to 11.3% and Edison had proposed to go from 10.33% to 11.75%. Considering the cur-

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rent economic environment, it was a bold request by the utilities that was met with tremendous opposition from industry groups, ratepayers and even legislators who were brave enough to challenge the utilities. **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** commented "We applaud the CPUC for having the courage to do the right thing and not only reject the proposed increase, but to decrease the rate of return. Electricity rates in California are astronomical compared to the rest of the country, and it is time for the CPUC to bring these utilities in line. Finally, the state is taking a small step in the right direction."

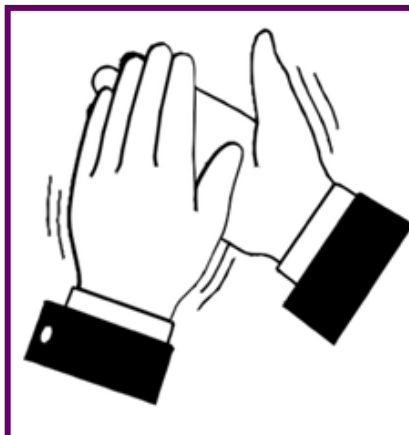
Association Advocates for Full Registration of Transform

Last month, the Association formally submitted a letter to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) expressing strong support for the full registration of Transform (sulfoxaflor) for use on cotton in California. This action reflects ongoing concerns from cotton growers across the state regarding persistent and increasingly severe lygus pressure, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Association emphasized that the number of effective tools available for lygus control is extremely limited, especially products that are compatible with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. Continued reliance on older chemistries, including pyrethroids and organophosphates, has required repeated applications, increased production costs, and heightened concerns related to resistance development and secondary pest outbreaks.

Transform offers growers an important alternative. Past use under Section 18 emergency exemptions and special local needs registrations has demonstrated the product's ability to effectively control lygus and aphids while preserving beneficial insect populations. Its distinct mode of action, low use rates, and favorable environmental profile make it a valuable tool for both resistance management and long-term sustainability.

The Association's letter highlighted that other cotton-producing states currently have access to sulfoxaflor under full federal registration, placing California growers at a competitive disadvantage. Permanent registration would provide growers with a reliable, science-based option to manage chronic lygus pressure without increasing dependence on a shrinking set of chemistries.



The Association will continue to engage with DPR and other stakeholders as this issue moves forward. Ensuring access to effective pest management tools remains a top priority, particularly as growers face increasing regulatory constraints and production challenges.

Association Submits Comments on Proposed Pesticide-Treated Seed Requirements

Last month, the Association submitted a formal comment letter on proposed regulatory changes affecting pesticide-treated seed, raising concerns about unnecessary duplication of federal oversight and unintended impacts on California agriculture.

The Association emphasized that treated seed is already comprehensively regulated at the federal level and plays a critical role in early-season pest control and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. Additional state-specific requirements could increase costs, limit seed availability, and reduce effective pest-management options for growers.

The Association urged regulators to take a science-based approach, consider operational realities, and engage stakeholders before advancing new requirements. We will continue monitoring this issue and advocating on behalf of members as the proposal moves forward.

State Water Board Continues Evaluation of Fertilizer Uses

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has continued the evaluation of fertilizer use in California agriculture by convening the Second Ag Expert Panel (Expert Panel). The panel of scientific experts and industry representatives have been tasked with evaluating current regulatory frameworks to review fertilizer inputs in fields throughout the state, and determine whether there needs to be more stringent limits and standards on applications in place to protect water quality. The Expert Panel has been meeting bi-monthly since October, with several more meetings scheduled in the coming weeks.

The meetings have featured various panel presentations, including regional water experts, growers and CCA's, Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Directors and a long list of environmental and community activist groups. Many of the community groups have pushed the Expert Panel to recommend restrictive limits on in-field applications dependent on the commodity that is grown in the field, as well as provide more identifiable nitrogen-use reports for local groups to access and review. The agricultural industry has been well represented, with various presentations and discussions coming directly from industry experts, and a presentation from Tess Dunham, attorney with Kahn, Soares & Conway, and Abby Tay-

lor-Silva, Managing Director of Regulatory Affairs with Kahn, Soares & Conway. The Association is continuing to monitor the panel meetings, and will be providing comments in the coming weeks.

USDA Announces Critical Emergency Assistance Funding

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced the next phase in the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program (FBA), the eligible commodity per-acre payment rates. As announced earlier this month by President Trump and Secretary Rollins, \$12 billion will be paid to American farmers in 2026. Of that amount, \$11 billion consists of one-time FBA program payments. This is in response to record-high input and production costs, and zero new trade deals. **USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins** said, "These one-time payments give farmers the bridge to continue to feed and clothe America and the world while the Trump Administration continues opening new markets and strengthening the farm safety net. USDA is making this process as simple and seamless as possible so producers can focus on what they do best – feeding and fueling our nation." As an eligible row crop commodity cotton will receive a per acre payment rate of \$117.35. FBA payments are based on 2025 planted acres, Economic Research Service cost of production, and the World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimate Report. Double crop acres, including all initial and subsequently planted crops, are eligible. Prevent plant acres are not eligible. All intended row crop uses are eligible for FBA except grazing, volunteer stands, experimental, green manure, crops left standing and abandoned or cover crops. Crop insurance linkage is not required; however, USDA strongly urges producers to take advantage of the new risk management tools provided for in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) to best protect against future price risk and volatility. The OBBBA federal crop insurance improvements include expanding benefits for beginning farmers and ranchers, increasing coverage options, and making crop insurance more affordable. More information FBA is available online at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/fba> or you can contact your local USDA FSA county office.

First Snow Survey Complete

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has now conducted the first snow survey of the season at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 24 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 5 inches, which is 50 percent of average for this location. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR's water supply forecast. Statewide, the snowpack is 71 percent of average for this date. The results are somewhat welcome news for water managers who rely on the statewide snow surveys to make water supply decisions for the year ahead. California's

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statewide snowpack had been lacking in early December with above-average temperatures and very little storm activity. Recent storms have turned that around and provided a significant boost to the snowpack and the [state's water supply](#). "The dry conditions and warmer temperatures in early December delayed our snow-building season, but the return of storm activity, especially in the last week, helped to build a solid base for this year's snowpack," said **Angelique Fabbiani-Leon**, State Hydrometeorologist for DWR. "Thankfully, the recent storms that reached the state were cold enough to provide necessary benefits for the snowpack and our water supply. While California is in a better position now, it is still early in the season and our state's water supply for this year will ultimately depend on a continued cadence of storms throughout winter and early spring."

DWR's electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the Sierra Nevada indicate that the statewide snowpack's snow water equivalent is 6.5 inches, or 71 percent of average for this date, compared to 115 percent on this date last year. On average, the largest snow-producing months in the Sierra Nevada are January, February, and March. Drought and

flood always marked the California climate, but extreme whiplash between wet and dry is becoming more pronounced, not just year to year but often within the same season or month. "It's great to see so much fresh snow in the Sierra following a relatively dry December," said **DWR Director Karla Nemeth**. "More than any other factor, the rain and snow that falls in these critical winter months dictates how much water can be delivered to Californians and farmland statewide. Major reservoirs statewide are currently 123 percent of average thanks to recent precipitation on top of three consecutive years of above-average snowpack conditions. On average, the Sierra snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs. Its natural ability to store water is why the Sierra snowpack is often referred to as California's "frozen reservoir." Data from these snow surveys and forecasts produced by DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit are key factors in determining how DWR manages the state's water resources. DWR conducts four media-oriented snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month, January through April and, if necessary, May. The next survey is tentatively scheduled for February 3.



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2026
ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 20, 2026
TULARE, CA

REGISTRATION TO OPEN SOON!