



Tree Nut Times

October 2025

Volume 17, Issue 10

Industry Calendar

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

WTNA Board Meeting
Dec. 4, 2025

The Almond
Conference
Dec. 10-12, 2025

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Association Hosts Texas Ag Leadership Group



The **Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership** Cohort was in California this week, 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'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

Welcome New Grower Members!

Monte Vista Farming Company

Ryan Jacobsen

Van Gronigen Orchards

Welcome New Associate Members!

Associated Equipment Distributors

AZZO

California Hulling Solutions

Weldcraft Industries, Inc.

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**.



across the finish line. Isom commented on the inability to move the trees or chips from the orchard removal because of the closure of the biomass plants as the initial concern but also discussed the roadblocks including lack of funding for projects, the withdrawals of renewable fuels solutions due to the State's push to go all electric, and the unfortunate all-out opposition from the environmental justice community to any potential alternative. Isom commented "the EJ community doesn't want us to burn and is trying to close every biomass plant left. In addition, they are at the forefront of every alternative solution from opposing composting, pyrolysis to create biochar or electricity, conversion of biomass to renewable fuels such as renewable diesel or renewable natural gas, and hydrogen. We need to get past that". Isom

ended his comments by saying these projects need help on the front end to get up and running and we need the state and federal governments to help fund some of these projects. Also speaking on the panel were **Merced County Grower Ashley Bandoni**, **Taylor Heisley-Cook, CEO of the Hurd Co.**, **Jason Imoff, COO of Glanris**, **Dr. Rebecca Ryals, Professor at UC Merced**, and **Samir Sheikh, Air Pollution Control Officer with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District**.

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.

Association President/CEO Isom Speaks Out on Biomass Dilemma

At an event conducted by **UC ANR, UC Merced, Valley Institute for Sustainability, Technology and Agriculture (VISTA), Farmhand Ventures and F3**, **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** spoke on the needs to address the biomass dilemma facing the tree nut industry in California. As part of a special interactive panel: ***Solving California's Biomass Problem***, Isom spoke to the hurdles that alternative biomass solutions currently face, and the needs to get some of these projects

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Lockout/Tagout Training Critical as Harvest Season in Full Swing

The **Western Tree Nut Association**, in conjunction with the **Nisei Farmers League** and in coordination with **Cal/OSHA Consultation** and all the Equipment Manufacturers, has developed new Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Machine Specific Procedures for Tree Nut Carts & Shuttles, particularly when unclogging equipment. With harvest in full swing, all employees should review these procedures. These procedures are designed to protect workers from serious injury or death caused by the unexpected startup of machinery or release of stored energy. During harvest, equipment is running continuously and clogs may occur. Click here to download the [Tree Nut Carts and Trucks LOTO Procedures](#).



Key Safety Reminders

- NEVER service, adjust, repair, or unclog equipment while it is running.
- No one is allowed in the cart while it is running. DO NOT stand on or climb on any part of the equipment.
- Notify all affected employees before beginning lockout/tagout.
- Shut down equipment fully: ignition off, brakes set, key removed or push-button lockout applied.
- Chock wheels and release hydraulic pressure before unclogging.
- Apply warning tags and keep keys in your possession.
- Only trained and authorized employees may apply and remove lockout devices

This procedure covers Tree Nut Carts & Shuttles only. It is not a substitute for a full Lockout/Tagout Program. Every company must have:

- A written Lockout/Tagout Program, and
- Machine-specific procedures for all equipment in use.

If you have any questions please reach out to our office at (559) 455-9272.

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 September 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.

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. Fi-

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nally, 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.

South Coast Air District Agrees to Postpone Port ISR Rule

Last month, the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast) Mobile Source Committee presented an update to their ongoing efforts on Rule 2304 – Commercial Marine Ports. Rule 2304 would have created a port-specific Indirect Source Rule (ISR), requiring ports to meet tightening emissions standards for all vehicles entering port boundaries. As an alternative to a regulation, South Coast entered into a cooperative agreement with both the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles in an effort to establish emission reduction goals in a more feasible timeline than what Rule 2304 would have required.

The Association attended the virtual meeting, and testified in support of the cooperative agreement. The agreement provides incentive and infrastructure development for Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV's), without mandating turnover of existing equipment. Additionally, the agreement will require demonstration projects for federally mandated sources of emissions, specifically ZEV locomotive technology. The committee approved the advancement of the cooperative agreement, where it will need support from South Coast's Board. This is a huge win in fighting back more stringent regulations that could significantly impact the State's ability to ship our commodities to their intended destinations. Stay tuned for more updates.

WTNA Activities for September:

- Met w/ USDA APHIS PPQ Administrator Dr. Michael Watson on Navel Orangeworm
- Spoke on Biomass Panel at UC Merced
- Attended field day at Fresno State showcasing Air Curtain Burner
- Participated in 2 biweekly USDA/CDFA/Industry meetings on navel orangeworm
- Attended webinar on EPA ESA mitigation
- Participated in meeting w/ CDFA on Navel orangeworm
- Met w/ CDPR on Plinazolin registration
- Met w/ US Senator Schiff's staff on biomass situation
- Participated in SJV Water Blueprint Technical Committee Mtg.
- Participate in two briefings on SB 54 Plastics Recycling regulation
- Attended Dignity Act briefing w/ Congressmen Costa and Valadao

- Attended CDPR briefing on anticoagulant rodenticide mitigation
- Met w/ Gubernatorial Candidate Steve Hilton
- Prepared and submitted letter to US President on Chinese Tariffs
- Hosted Air Coalition Team legal defense fund meeting
- Presented at the Crop Consultants Conference on 1,3-D
- Conducted 2 Pre Season Training for a walnut huller
- Conducted 1 Forklift Safety Training & Certifications for a walnut processor
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- Conducted First Aid/CPR training for a walnut huller
- Conducted First Aid/CPR training for an almond processor
- Developed 3 lockout/tagout procedures for a walnut processor
- Attended Fresno Madera Young Farmers & Ranchers Meeting
- Conducted 1 Employee Orientation Preseason training for the walnut huller
- Conducted 2 Lockout/Tagout training for an almond huller
- Conducted 5 hazard inspections for clients
- Conducted 1 Forklift Operator Training for a walnut processor
- Conducted 1 Lockout/Tagout training for a walnut processor
- Participated in the SJV Water Blueprint Board meeting
- Participated in WTNA Annual Meeting Subcommittee meeting
- Presented to the Texas AG Lifetime Leadership cohort
- Participated in a stakeholder meeting with CDPR
- Participated in a Ag Roundtable discussion with Assembly member Esmeralda Soria
- Conducted Water Truck safety training sessions for a pistachio huller
- Conducted Preseason General Safety Orientation training for a walnut huller
- Conducted Forklift certifications for a walnut processor
- Developed five safety programs for an almond huller
- Developed food safety plan for walnut grower
- Organized and attended 2 Source Tests for member facilities
- Organized and submitted 2 Air District Title V Reports for member facilities
- Negotiated a Violation Settlement for a member facility, saving them \$1,200
- Attended CV Salts Executive Committee meeting
- Attended Farm Bill Listening Session
- Organized hull donation deliveries from Member facilities to Fresno State Dairy Unit
- Attended Fresno State's AgOne Ag Boosters Barbeque