



Tree Nut Times

August 2026

Volume 18, Issue 08

Industry Calendar

WTNA Board Meeting
Aug. 6

WTNA Staff

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

Priscilla Rodriguez
Assistant Vice President
priscilla@wtna.org

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

Rita Ruiz
Safety & Food Safety Specialist
rita@wtna.org

Esmeralda Miranda
Safety & Food Safety Specialist
esmeralda@wtna.org

Michelle Franco
Bookkeeper/Admin Assistant
michelle@wtna.org

Mandy Vang
Office Assistant
mandy@wtna.org

WTNA Office
1785 N. Fine Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
P: (559) 455-9272
F: (559) 252-0551

Newsletter Sponsored by: Bay Logistics

WTNA Host Final Mixer of 2026

Western Tree Nut Association was proud to host the final mixer of the year at ATRIUM Café, Restaurant & Events in Turlock. It was a wonderful evening filled with great conversations, and new connections. This event was a great success, and we couldn't have made these mixers possible without our generous sponsorships. Thank you to everyone who attended, and to our sponsorships who helped make each event possible.



As we close out this year's events and head into harvest season, we wish everyone a safe, and successful harvest. What an incredible way to wrap up the 2026 WTNA Mixers!



a multi-part study exploring alternatives to fumigant pesticides. The independent research conducted by the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) specifically looked at methyl bromide and three pesticides known as MITC generators – dazomet, metam-sodium, and metam-potassium. Similar to the findings from CCST's previous reports, this report found that, while alternatives exist, there is no single alternative that can be used as a 1:1 sub-

stitute for methyl bromide or MITC generators. In particular, the cost and effectiveness of alternatives remain a significant barrier for growers. "DPR has made a strong commitment to sustainable pest management and finding alternatives to fumigants," said **DPR Director Karen Morrison**. "We will continue to prioritize actions to protect human health and the environment through research and innovation." In response,

Welcome New Grower Members!
Alan Deniz Farms, Inc.

Welcome New Associate Members!
Crop Insurance Services by AMS

Flory Industries
Forward Cargo
Midland Tractor

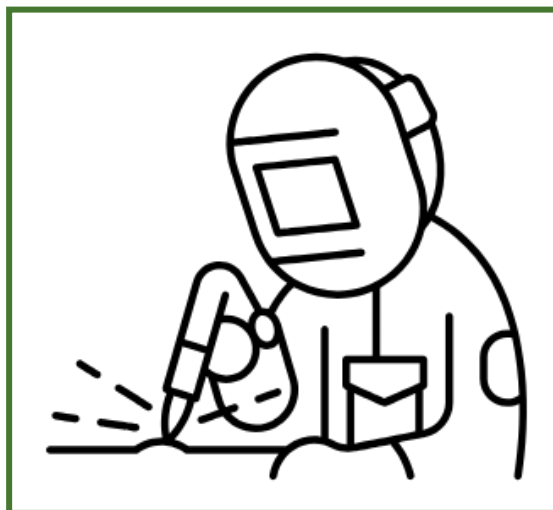
CDPR Releases Final Findings on Fumigant Alternatives Study

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) released the fourth and final component of

Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom stated “The report findings confirm what we have known all along, but CDPR had to go through the exercise due to the immense pressure put on the state by anti-pesticide activists. That being said, we continue to support research to find alternatives.” Both methyl bromide and MITC generators are restricted material pesticides in California – a group of high-risk pesticides that are strictly regulated to protect public health and the environment. DPR commissioned the independent study following the release of the [Sustainable Pest Management \(SPM\) Roadmap](#) to evaluate fumigant use and existing alternatives with funding from the California Budget Act of 2023-24. CCST’s reports focused on soil fumigants [1,3-D and chloropicrin](#), alternatives to [sulfuryl fluoride](#), and post-harvest [commodity fumigation](#).

Welding Fumes Added to the Proposition 65 List

Effective July 17, 2026, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is adding **welding fumes** to the list of chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, sections 25249.5 et seq. of the Health and Safety Code, otherwise known as Proposition 65. Businesses should evaluate their operations to determine if welding fumes are present and if warnings should be posted.



Department of Interior Finalizes Rule on Endangered Species Act

The Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce has announced they have finalized a rule rescinding the outdated regulatory definition of “harm” under the Endangered Species Act. The action returns the interpretation of the ESA back to its actual text and original intent, which will end years of federal overreach. This reform is based on the Supreme Court’s 2024 decision in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*, which requires agencies to follow the single best meaning of a statute rather than contorting laws to fit political agendas. Using the legally justifiable standard, the Services determined that the prior definition of “harm” was an unlawful regulatory intrusion that interfered with private property rights. “For years, federal agencies abused the ESA to obstruct lawful land use and burden American families and businesses,” said **Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum**.

“That approach turned routine activity into a regulatory trap, drove up costs that impacted people’s lives, and expanded federal authority beyond what Congress intended. This action restores common sense, respects private property, provides much-needed certainty for landowners and follows the statute Congress actually passed.” **Department of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick**, stated “We’re returning the ESA to its foundational purpose to ensure legitimate conservation goals are met without sacrificing economic growth and American prosperity.” The ESA’s core protections remain firmly in place. Actions that directly injure or kill listed wildlife will continue to be prohibited. Existing permits and incidental take statements remain valid and unchanged.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik, commented “We can protect species and respect communities at the same time.” According to the Department of Interior, the

final rule will reduce unnecessary permitting, cut compliance costs, and eliminate confusion for landowners, small businesses, energy producers, farmers, ranchers and local governments. It brings long overdue financial and regulatory relief to citizens who faced unpredictable delays and unnecessary costs due solely by interpretations that went far beyond the statute.

Single Use Packaging Regulation Summary of Reporting Requirements

Now that CalRecycle has finalized their single use packaging regulations, those that have registered must complete reporting require-

ments. The Association’s law firm of Kahn, Soares and Conway has issued an updated summary of the SB 54 Reporting Requirements. For those that have registered we encourage you to call our office and request a copy of the Reporting Requirements. Of particular importance is the Individual Source Reduction (ISR) Plan which is due August 1. Should you have any questions, please let us know.

CDPR Publishes Comments on SprayDays California System

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has reviewed and published all public comments received on **SprayDays California**, the state’s pesticide application notification system. DPR gathered the comments from March 10 through May 1, 2026, alongside the release of the system’s first annual status update. SprayDays is a relatively new system that allows people statewide to be provided advance notifications and details about scheduled applications of restricted material pesticides, which require approval from a



PHOENIX — YOUR SOUTHWEST DISTRIBUTION HUB

PHOENIX, ARIZONA — GATEWAY TO SOUTHWEST MARKETS

PHOENIX'S PREMIER COLD CHAIN SOLUTION

REFRIGERATED & FROZEN STORAGE — FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANT



7,700

PALLET POSITIONS

**Southwest
Distribution Hub**

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

WE STORE:

ALMONDS

WALNUTS

PISTACHIOS

PECANS

TREE NUTS & MORE



Dedicated Cold Storage Facility

Purpose-built refrigerated and freezer environments with precision temperature control



Flexible Distribution Access

Ideally positioned to move California-grown tree nuts efficiently to Southwest buyers



Scalable Capacity

7,700 pallet positions — scale up or down to match your harvest season demands



Food Safety Ready — AIB Audited

AIB audited facility with storage practices aligned with FDA Produce Safety Rule standards — inspection-ready documentation



As FDA Produce Safety Rule enforcement ramps up for large farms, your downstream cold chain partner matters. **Bay Logistics Phoenix is AIB audited and provides the documented, temperature-controlled storage your product — and your compliance record — demands.**

IT'S BETTER AT BAY!

Kyle Haan

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

616-307-4834

CONTACT US FOR A QUOTE

www.baylogistics.com



WAREHOUSE WITH **BAY LOGISTICS**

- Public & dedicated space –
- Family-owned & operated –
- Short-term & long-term warehousing solutions –
- Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee, Arizona & Mexico –

WE OFFER:

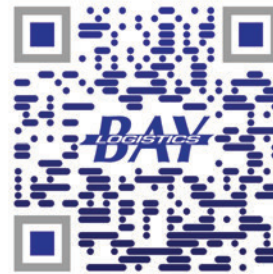
- Inventory Management Expertise
- Ultramodern WMS Technology
- EDI Specialists
- AIB Audited Food Grade Space
- Ambient, Refrigerated, Freezer
- Hazardous/Flammable Space
- Complementary Logistics Services
- Truckload Transportation
- Shuttle/Switching Services
- Yard Management Software
- Protected Truck & Trailer Parking
- ISO Certified Quality Inspections
- Specialized Equipment
- Ceiling & Gantry Cranes
- Assortment of Pricing Formats

CONTACT US TODAY!

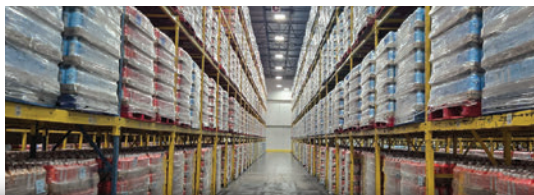
baylogistics.com

(616) 307-4834

kyle.haan@baylogistics.com



Affiliated with Martin Transportation Systems



county agricultural commissioner before use. The regulation behind SprayDays requires DPR to gather public input and report on the system's progress. This year, DPR completed these required activities, issuing the system's [first annual status update](#), holding an extended public comment period, and presenting updates to DPR's Environmental Justice Advisory Committee and to the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. Environmental justice and anti-pesticide activists submitted numerous comments focused on urging CDPR to revise the program to include the specific location of each application rather than the 1 mile by 1 mile section currently reported, and to expand the list of reported pesticides beyond those considered as restricted materials. The Association part of a coalition of ag groups who submitted comments opposing further changes and specifically opposing the listing of the exact location. These comments are available to view on [DPR's SmartComment page\(external link\)](#).

Ag is Target of Environmental Justice Community Again

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) held a hearing on the 2026 State Implementation Plan Revisions for California Extreme Ozone Nonattainment Areas. At the hearing, more than 90% of the speakers attacked agriculture urging CARB to adopt regulations to reduce emissions from pesticides, fertilizers and a mandatory replacement of agricultural tractors. One CARB Board Member **Dr. John Balmes** commented "Ag has gotten a free pass from air quality regulations for a long time, and I think it is ridiculous." Then, the ag member of the board, **John Eisenhut**, commented that while he has previously supported the use of incentives for tractor replacement, "the time has come to regulate ag tractors". This was echoed by several of the board members, and a motion was made to include agriculture equipment into the SIP. Despite these comments, there was some lengthy discussion, and coming out of a meeting break, the board rescinded the motion and moved forward with the approval of the SIP as planned, and without a mandatory tractor replacement rule. **Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom** responded to the comments by stating "It is unfortunate that we could not respond at the meeting to these completely unfounded remarks. It is equally unfortunate and quite surprising that the one agricultural person on the board would advocate for farmers to mandatorily replace their tractors without incentive funds. Agriculture has made huge strides reducing emissions from tractors, pump engines, trucks, ag burning, and dust from farms, and that should have been recognized!" This was the closest it has ever come to

happening, and we will have to fight even harder moving forward.

OEHHA Proposes Inhalation Unit Risk Factor for Acrolein-Why Should You Care?

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has proposed an Inhalation Unit Risk (IUR) Factor of 7.9×10^{-4} ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Put another way, the risk from acrolein is estimated to be 1,300 excess cancer cases in a million. So, what does that mean? For agriculture this will be a big deal. First, acrolein can be found in many places, but primarily as a product of combustion. It can also be found in tobacco smoke, wildfire smoke, pesticides and food processing. More importantly, the level of the IUR is the concern. At the proposed level, the risk is 10 times higher than that of benzene and is in the same range as diesel exhaust in total. If adopted as is, more pressure would be put on mobile sources to convert to electric. It should be noted that there are large uncertainties associated with the draft proposal and the Association is part of a large coalition digging into the proposal and pushing back on the lack of information and suspect data used to make the proposed determination. This is one everyone should monitor closely in the coming months.

USDA FSA Launches New Online Scheduling Tool

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering a new option to schedule appointments online with their local Farm



Service Agency (FSA) office. Following a successful pilot program, FSA is now using a digital appointment platform across the agency to allow producers to make farm program or farm loan appointments online at their convenience. "Farmers and ranchers work around the clock and should be able to schedule appointments with their local offices at their convenience," said **FSA Administrator Bill Beam**. Producers can schedule ap-

pointments through FSA's digital platform, Microsoft Bookings, using a mobile device, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. To assist producers in finding their local FSA office to make an appointment. Each county office contact page has a unique link for producers to make an appointment online and shows contact information for the local FSA office and the farm loan team. Appointments may be in-person or virtual with the local FSA office depending on producer preference. Producers can conveniently schedule appointments

Newsletter Sponsored by: Bay Logistics

for a variety of services with both farm program and farm loan staff. For more information, producers can contact their local FSA office.

Cal/OSHA Continues Work on Sliding and Swinging Gate Safety Standard

The Cal/OSHA Standards Board Advisory Committee met on July 23 to continue discussions on proposed revisions to Title 8, Section 3324, which would expand safety requirements for horizontal sliding gates and establish new requirements for swinging gates. The proposal could require facilities to retrofit existing gate or design changes and new inspection, maintenance, and repair requirements. The meeting focused on refining the scope of the proposal and reviewing draft requirements for sliding gates. Committee members discussed issues including design standards, positive stops, gate size thresholds, and qualified person requirements for installation and repairs. Cal/OSHA requested additional stakeholder feedback and cost information before preparing the next draft.

WTNA Activities for July:

- Hosted meeting with California Air Resources Board on SJVAPCD Ozone SIP
- Conducted Confined Spaces and Loader Train-the-Trainer classes for almond huller
- Hosted meeting with California Air Resources Board on air pollution research priorities for agriculture
- Prepared and submitted comments on USTR Trade Mechanism proposal for China
- Participated in Status Conference for CalOSHA Appeals case for almond huller
- Prepared response to CalOSHA 1BY letter for almond huller
- Investigated and successfully eliminated potential notice of violation for farm irrigation pump engine
- Met w/ microgrid company to discuss on-farm applications
- Attended briefing on acrolein toxicity factor with industry coalition
- Met w/ Congressman Jim Costa
- Attended AgTC briefing
- Hosted meeting w/ Senator Ben Allen
- Met with YSAQMD on sulfuryl fluoride permitting issue
- Met w/ CalFire on ag burn prog
- Met with Arizona Cotton Research and Education Council on AF 36
- Attended APG Pistachio Insights Day
- Participated in meeting w/ CDPR on emergency pesticide registration process
- Hosted 2 Fumigation Summits

- Hosted Membership Mixer in Turlock
- Wrote letter of support on behalf of SJVAPCD for funding for ag burn incentive funds
- Wrote letter of support on behalf of SJVAPCD for funding for low dust harvester funds
- Conducted two confined spaces training for a pistachio huller
- Conducted hazard assessment for almond huller
- Conducted Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer for an almond huller
- Conducted FA/CPR for almond processor
- Conducted three Employee Preseason Orientation training for almond huller
- Conducted First/Aid CPR training for a pistachio processor
- Conducted First/Aid CPR training for a almond processor
- Conducted Yard Truck & Stockpile Elevator training for an almond processor
- Conducted Front Loader training for an almond processor
- Conducted a Hazard Inspection for an almond huller
- Conducted First Aid/CPR training for a client
- Conducted 6 preseason training for an almond huller
- Conducted Forklift Train-the-Trainer for a walnut processor
- Conducted a hazard inspection for an almond processor
- Participated in the California Ag Leadership Foundation Class 56 Selection Committee
- Attended Wester Plant Health's Regulatory Conference
- Conducted Confined Space safety training for a pistachio processor
- Prepared and submitted an ATC application for a walnut huller
- Participated in the SJV Water Blueprint Board Meeting
- Participated in the SJV Water Blueprint Technical Committee meeting
- Conducted Yard Truck safety training for three almond huller members
- Conducted Stockpile Elevator safety training for three almond huller members
- Conducted Front Loader Safety training for two almond huller members
- Conducted Preseason Safety Training sessions for two almond huller members
- Conducted Workplace Violence Prevention Safety Training for an almond huller member
- Developed seven food safety programs for a walnut huller
- Assisted two members with the Annual Preharvest Ag Water Assessment
- Developed a dust survey report for a pistachio processor