



Tree Nut Times

April 2025

Volume 17, Issue 4

Industry Calendar

Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer Workshops
April 1, 3, 8, 9, 2025

Bakersfield Membership Mixer
April 9, 2025

Workplace Violence Webinar
April 14, 2025

Indoor & Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention
May 19, 2025

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Newsletter Sponsored by: G3 Enterprises

Association Addresses Key Legislative Priorities at Ag Day Press Event

Association President/CEO Roger A. Isom was one of three speakers to address the media at a special Ag Coalition Event held at the State Capitol during Ag Day in Sacramento. Isom addressed the crowd on directing \$600 million annually from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) towards key proven programs that not only help agriculture but all of California. Isom highlighted the FARMER program to replace tractors and harvesters, the SAFER program to clean up drinking water systems, the FPIP program to help food processors advance technology, the Alternatives to Ag Burning Program to help farmers overcome the elimination of ag burning, and the Climate Investment Program to help livestock operations reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Isom closed his remarks by stating "these are proven programs with benefits that go far beyond the agricultural industry. They benefit every Californian, including those in the most disadvantaged parts of the state and we urge the State legislature to support this effort and these programs. Joining Isom at the podium were **Shannon Douglass, President of the California Farm Bureau Federation**, discussing overall challenges to agriculture, and **Michael Miller, with the California Association of Winegrape Growers** discussing new legislation to create a tax credit for paying overtime for agricultural workers.



WTNA Board Heads to Sacramento

Last month, the Board of Directors held a board meeting in Sacramento. In addition, they held a legislative reception and dinner with legislators to discuss critical issues affecting the tree nut industry in California, including water, energy prices, pesticide issues and air quality and safety regulations. Regulators that joined the group **included Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez (36th District), Assemblyman John Harabedian (41st District), Assemblywoman Alexandra Macedo (33rd District), Dr. Darshana Patel (76th District), Assemblywoman**

Welcome New Regular Member!

American Almond Co Inc

Welcome New Grower Members!

A - Bar Ag Enterprises

BC Farming

Bone Farms LLC

Bowles Farming Company

Clark Bros Farming, LLC

Clendenin Orchards

Darrell Vincent Farms

Diener Family 2000 Trust

Gilkey Five

James S. Anderson

LOG Haven Dairy

McKinney Family Farming Inc.

Nickel Family LLC

Pikalok Farming

Prado Farms

Red Cypress Investments

Sage Creek Ranch

Stone Land Company

Summerfield Farms

Terranova Ranch

an Blanca Rubio (48th District), and Assemblyman David Tangipa (8th District). During the board meeting, the board discussed all the regulatory issues and legislative issues the Association is currently tackling. The critical legislation including the State Budget, composting legislation, ag waste generation reporting and reauthorization of Cap & Trade.

WTNA Membership Mixer in Bakersfield April 9th

This month, Western Tree Nut Association staff and Board Members will be hosting you at Luigi's in Bakersfield on April 9th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Our

mixer events are a great opportunity for Members and Associates to get together and enjoy company, good drinks and appetizers. Due to limited space, you must RSVP to attend. If you are interested in attending or sponsoring, please reach out to Esmeralda Miranda at esmeralda@agprocessors.org or by phone at (559) 455-9272.

Administrator Zeldin Announces EPA Will Revise Waters of the United States Rule

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin has announced that EPA will work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to deliver on President's Trump's promise to review the definition of "waters of the United States." The agencies will move quickly to ensure that a revised definition follows the law, reduces red-tape, cuts overall permitting costs, and lowers the cost of doing business in communities across the country while protecting the nation's navigable waters from pollution. Given the U.S. Supreme Court's watershed decision in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, it is time for EPA to finally address this issue once and for all in a way that provides American farmers, landowners, businesses, and states with clear and simplified direction. *"We want clean water for all Americans supported by clear and consistent rules for all states, farmers, and small businesses," said EPA Administrator Zeldin.* The definition of "waters of the United States" guides Clean Water Act implementation, including whether farmers, landowners and businesses must secure costly permits before they can pursue a project. It is critical that Americans know which waters are subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act to grow our economy and lower costs for American families while protecting human health and the environment. The agency will also undertake a rulemaking process to revise the 2023 definition of "waters of the United States" with a focus on clarity, simplicity and improvements that will stand the test of time. While this rulemaking process proceeds, the agency will provide guidance to those

states implementing the pre-2015 definition of "waters of the United States" to ensure consistency with the law of the land. EPA's review will be guided by the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, which stated that the Clean Water Act's use of "waters" encompasses only those relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water forming streams, oceans, rivers and lakes. The *Sackett* decision also clarified that wetlands would only be covered when having a continuous surface connection to waterbodies that are "waters of the United States" in their own right.

Federal EPA to Revisit PM2.5 Standard

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency is revisiting the Biden PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which has raised serious concerns from states across the country and served as a major obstacle to permitting. *"All Americans deserve to breathe clean air while pursuing the American dream. Under President Trump, we will ensure air quality standards for particulate matter are protective of human health and the environment while we unleash the Golden Age of American prosperity," said EPA Administrator Zeldin.* EPA is also announcing that it will soon release guidance to increase flexibility on NAAQS implementation, reforms to New Source Review, and direction on permitting obligations. This suite of actions

advances cooperative federalism and begins to undo red tape holding back American exceptionalism. The U.S. has some of the lowest fine particulate matter levels in the world. Between 2000 and 2023, average PM2.5 concentrations in the U.S. fell by 37 percent and average PM10 concentrations similarly fell by 36 percent. This action is significant for California where at least seven areas were deemed non-attainment for the new 9 ug/m3 PM2.5 standard and would have had a very difficult time meeting this new standard.

WTNA Co-Sponsored Bill on Composting Passes First Hurdle

Last month, SB 279 (McNerney) passed out of Senate Environmental Quality on a 7-0 vote. SB 279 would expand onsite composting for agricultural operations by excluding large-scale biomass events (orchard or vineyard removals) from

compost regulations and increase the exemption for agricultural operations to produce and sell compost from 1,000 cubic yards to 5,000 cubic yards. The **Western Tree Nut Association (WTNA)** is one of the sponsors of this bill. **WTNA Presi-**

WTNA 2025 BAKERSFIELD MEMBERSHIP MIXER

DIAMOND
TELEOS AG

GOLD
TheZenith, CARDINAL PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS, HUB, FARMEX

SILVER
SATEKE, H&R LABOR

Join us for Drinks and Hors d'oeuvres

When
Wednesday, April 9th
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Where
Luigi's Restaurant & Delicatessen
725 E 19th St,
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Meet with WTNA Board Members & Staff
Meet with WTNA Members and Associate Members
Learn about WTNA and the benefits of being a member
All while enjoying good drinks, good food, and good company

Please RSVP to Esmeralda at (559) 455-9272 or via email at esmeralda@agprocessors.org





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Transportation • Warehousing

dent/CEO Roger Isom testified recently as one of the lead witnesses stating “Disposal of agricultural biomass has become a huge challenge due to low commodity prices, the implementation of SGMA, demise of the biomass plant industry and the complete elimination of agricultural burning. The ability to produce and sell compost will help agricultural producers to improve air quality, improve soil health and remain financially viable until the next crop starts to produce.” More than 59 organization support the bill including **American Pistachio Growers, Almond Alliance of California, California Fresh Fruit Association, Agricultural Council of California, California Association of Winegrape Growers and the Wine Institute.**

DPR Study Finds No Alternatives for 1,3-D or Chloropicrin Fumigation

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation today released an independent scientific study on possible alternatives to a pair of widely used fumigant pesticides: 1,3-dichloropropene (1,3-D) and chloropicrin. As you are all aware, the tree nut industry utilizes 1,3-D to kill soil pathogens before new trees are planted. Chloropicrin is a fumigant often paired with 1,3-D in soil fumigation. The study found that no currently available alternatives to 1,3-D and chloropicrin would work as a universal replacement for these fumigants. However, combinations of two or more alternatives could be effective for specific crops and pests. The researchers concluded that more research is needed to support effective, feasible and readily available approaches for pest management. “These findings highlight key challenges with identifying and replacing higher risk pesticide uses with alternatives and the critical need for continued research as we work to increase access to discover more sustainable ways to manage pests,” said **DPR Director Karen Morrison**. The Association closely monitors regulatory issues surrounding 1,3-D, and will continue to watch the work on 1,3-D.



Changes to Horizontal Sliding and Swinging Gates Regulation

A recent Cal/OSHA advisory committee meeting reviewed proposed changes to the Horizontal Sliding and Swinging Gates Regulations. Most facilities use gates to secure operations, keeping unwanted visitors out, protecting valuable equipment, and ensuring worker safety. This effort was initiated after a gate-related fatality, when child was killed at school by a falling gate. This regulation would apply to gate panels exceeding 100 pounds or that are 12 feet wide by four feet tall. Key findings from the meeting and proposals discussed:

- Cal/OSHA has recorded 48 gate-related incidents since 1990, including 14 fatalities.
- The proposed regulation expands existing safety orders to cover both horizontal sliding and swinging gates.
- Gates exceeding 100 pounds or 12 feet by 4 feet must include “positive stops” to prevent unintended movement.
- Employers would be required to inspect gates annually and

ensure they are designed by a professional engineer.

- Industry stakeholders raised concerns about regulatory burdens, enforcement challenges, and technician qualifications.

The specifics of the changes to the regulation remain under debate. The next steps involve refining the draft language before potential adoption. You can find the draft proposed changes [here](#). The Association is tracking the issue and will keep you updated.

Successful Start to Safety Training Workshops

The regional Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer sessions are off the a great start. Thanks to the dedication and expertise of The Zenith, InterWest Insurance and our very own WTNA trainers,

participants gained valuable knowledge on Aerial Lift Safety and training techniques that will enhance workplace safety and compliance. We’d also like to extend our sincere gratitude to our host sites for providing a location that allowed for a smooth and productive training experience. We appreciate our partners for their support, which made these trainings possible. We still have upcoming training opportunities available. Topics include:

Aerial Lift Safety (Train-the-Trainer)

- Le Grand: April 1 | Fresno: April 3
- Woodland: April 8 | Chico: April 9

Webinars:

- **Workplace Violence Prevention:** April 14
- **Indoor & Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention:** May 19

The cost per training is \$65 per person for members and \$85 for non-members. For information on registering for the workshops and/or webinars please see flyer or visit our website at <https://www.agprocessors.org/>.

Association Announces Pre-Harvest Water Assessment Workshop 2025

Are you ready for the new pre-harvest water requirements going into effect? Farms subject to the Produce Safety Rule must now conduct annual agricultural water assessments beginning in April of this year (for large farms). It is important for our membership, which now includes growers, to understand how to utilize and tailor the water assessment to their farming operations. For this reason, we are working with the California Department of Food Agriculture (CDFA) and the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) to coordinate regional Pre-Harvest Water Assessment Workshops beginning in April.

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These workshops will be conducted by CDFA inspectors and UCANR staff at our host sites. They will be going over the water assessment requirements of the Produce Safety Rule and participants will have an opportunity for Q & A specific to their operation. This is a great opportunity to get first-hand knowledge from CDFA inspectors as this requirement can be cumbersome.

The event is free to attend. If you would like to register for one of these workshops, please RSVP to mandy@agprocessors.org. Upon sign up we will provide the exact location.


April 4 – Madera
April 17 – Winters
April 28 - Hanford
April 29 – Wasco
April 30 – Manteca
May 28 - Chico

Refer to the flyer for additional details. If you have any further questions, please reach out. **Spread the word! Please feel free to forward this to growers in your area!**

Register Now for the WTNA Annual Meeting and Trade Show

The **2025 WTNA Annual Meeting & Trade Show**, in partnership with West Coast Nut, will be held at the beautiful **Monterey Marriott and Monterey Convention Center**, **June 11-13, 2025**. Our Annual Meeting is an opportunity to socialize and network within our business community. Events include: Trade Show, Networking Opportunities, Annual Golf Tournament, Membership Dinner, Discussion on Hot Topic Industry Issues and much more! We are working promptly to get the agenda finalized. Please follow the link below to view

**ARE YOU READY FOR FSMA'S
PRE-HARVEST WATER
ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS?**



Western Tree Nut Association, in conjunction with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources (UCANR), is coordinating Free Pre-Harvest Water Assessment Regional Workshop for tree nut growers.

The goal of this regional Pre-Harvest Water Assessment Workshop is to ensure tree nut growers are prepared for the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, specifically now that the **Final Rule on Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water requirements came into effect in July of 2024 and the compliance date comes into effect April 7th, 2025.**

Who should attend:

- All growers who are required to meet the Produce Safety Rule Requirements.

What to expect:

- CDFA inspectors will be providing recommendations on the assessment and how to tailor to the assessment to your operations.
- CDFA inspectors or UCANR will be discuss requirements on the Final Rule on Pre-Harvest Agricultural and what will be required for the **now enforceable harvest & post-harvest water requirements.**
- CDFA will hold a Question and Answer session for any specific questions you may have about your operations.

Locations & Regions

Madera – April 4

Winters – April 17

Hanford – April 28

Wasco – April 29

Manteca – April 30

Chico – May 29**

All will be held in the morning - 9:00 am
Except Chico will be held in the afternoon only - **1:30 pm

Special thank you to our sites for hosting!

The events are FREE however you must RSVP to mandy@agprocessors.org or (559) 455-9272. Once you have RSVP'd we will provide you the address for the date and region you choose.

Come to the site nearest you. Don't miss this opportunity.

UPDATED March 28, 2025

our event website and register. We look forward to seeing you there! <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/wtna2025annualmeeting>

WTNA Activities for March:

- Prepared and submitted comments on CDPR's Request for Critical Uses on Paraquat
- Testified at Senate Environmental Quality Hearing on SB 279 (McNerney)
- Spoke at the Ag Day Press Conference at the Capitol
- Met w/ CDFA and USDA on Navel Orangeworm
- Conducted seven media interviews on tariffs, re-branding and GGRF Funding Request
- Held Legislative Reception in Sacramento for State Assemblymembers Rubio, Harabedian, Gonzalez, Tangipa, Macedo and Patel
- Met with Assemblywoman Ally Macedo and Assemblyman David Tangipa
- Conducted inspection for Cal/OSHA Appeal
- Completed and submitted applications for 3 members for Air Curtain Burners
- Completed and submitted 3 applications for equipment modifications for 3 members
- Attended Citizens Advisory Group of Industry meeting
- Attended Naval Orangeworm Research call with USDA/CDFA
- Scheduled and attended Emissions Test for member's Air Curtain Burner
- Attended Ag Leadership Recruitment Dinner
- Attended Fundraiser for Assemblywoman Lori Wilson
- Attended Fundraiser for James Gallagher
- Conducted a Lockout/Tagout Train-the-Trainer for a pistachio huller
- Conducted Fall Protection Train-the-Trainer for a pistachio huller
- Conducted Hazard Communication Webinar
- Conducted Forklift Operator Safety Training for a pistachio huller
- Attended CUPA conference in Anaheim
- Attend Fresno Madera Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting
- Conducted 3 Regional Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer sessions
- Conducted FA/CPR training for an almond huller
- Conducted FA/CPR training for an almond processor
- Attended APG LeadOn meeting
- Participated in the San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Board meeting
- Participated in the San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Technical workgroup meeting
- Participated in an Ag Roundtable Technology meeting
- Meet with CDFA on Pre-Harvest Water Requirement Regional Workshops
- Conducted Workplace Violence Prevention training for a walnut processor
- Conducted Confined Space safety training for a pistachio processor
- Assisted with organic certification for a walnut grower
- Developed three safety programs for an almond huller



2025

WTNA ANNUAL MEETING

And Trade Show

When:
June 11, 2025, 5:30 pm to June 13, 2025

Where:
Monterey Convention Center and Marriott Hotel
350 Calle Principal
Monterey, CA 93940

Join us for an opportunity to socialize and network within our business community.

- Reception
- Trade Show
- Business Session

- Golf
- Dinner

Register online at <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/wtna2025annualmeeting> or call our office at (559) 455-9272