

# 2020 - 2021 Annual Report



## CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION

"To fulfill the needs of its membership while serving as the primary public policy organization advocating on behalf of fresh fruit growers and shippers in California."

-CFFA Mission Statement

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## STAFF



**IAN LEMAY**  
President



**ADAM BORCHARD**  
Director  
Government &  
Public Policy



**COURTNEY RAZOR**  
Director  
Member Services &  
Communications



**CAROLINE STRINGER**  
Director  
Trade



**ALLYSON CALDERON**  
Office Manager



**PERLA CHAVARRIA**  
Programs Assistant



**MARY WILLIAMS**  
Bookkeeper



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THE WORK, THE FIGHT, THE PROGRESS CONTINUES



**IAN LEMAY, President**

It is with pride that I report that the role of your Association remains just as important today as it was 85 years ago: To serve as the primary public policy advocate for the fresh fruit growers and shippers of California. It goes without saying, but 2020 will go down in history as a pivotal moment for our global society. But, as I reflect on the year, I am proud to say that we met the moment and moved beyond this perilous time as a stronger industry.

During 2020, the California Fresh Fruit Association (CFFA) continued its legacy of service. Supporting one another is what we do, in the best, but especially in the toughest of times. A year into a pandemic that uprooted daily life and tested the resolve of everyone, I feel it is important that we reflect on the many ways our agricultural community rose to the occasion to support each other, the unspoken sacrifices so many made and the work that still needs to be done as we continue to push towards a post-pandemic future.

Even before the increased risks to food and agricultural workers became evident, protecting the health and safety of our employees has always been the number one priority. From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, CFFA partnered with organizations like the California Farmworker Foundation (CFF) to provide personal protective equipment to those who needed it most. Together, we distributed hundreds of thousands of N-95 and single-use surgical masks to agricultural employees across California. CFFA and CFF also partnered with the California Table Grape Commission to launch "Safety Starts with You," a multi-channel public health education campaign that included Spanish-language radio messages providing farm employees with information and resources about how to stay safe during the pandemic.

Supporting our community meant more than just addressing the direct impacts to the physical health of our employees. That is why the Association was proud to have supported the COVID-19 Farmworker Relief Fund, which provided farm employees with emergency rental assistance and financial resources to pay utilities and other basic-need expenses.

CFFA also stepped in when vaccines were first made available to essential workers, ensuring the women and men who protect the integrity of our food supply received the prioritization they deserved. CFFA members rose to meet that challenge in full force and vaccinated tens of thousands of employees in close partnership with the state, counties, and local community-based organizations.

This was not an easy year for our members, our employees, or our industry. But as the light at the end of the tunnel of this pandemic approaches, we should all take a moment to reflect on all we have accomplished during these turbulent times. As the agricultural industry has always done, we met the moment and continued to provide the needed food and fiber for the nation and world.

I would like to close with a few personal acknowledgements. First to our Chairman Kevin Herman, thank you for exemplifying leadership in troubled times. For your commitment to the fresh fruit industry, its history, and its vibrant future. While we still have another year of partnership to go, thank you for being the leader we needed at this important moment. Next, to our staff: Courtney, Caroline, Adam, Allyson, Mary, and Perla. Thank you for your patience, tenacity, and commitment to growth in a year that lacked consistency but was perpetually challenging. It remains an honor to have the privilege to work with each of you. To my wife Molly, thank you for affording me the time and opportunity to serve such an amazing industry. You remain my staunchest supporter, and I couldn't do any of it without you by my side. And to our entire membership, thank you for your continued support and dedication to the California Fresh Fruit Association. None of our advocacy efforts would be possible without each of you at the table. As I stated last year, "The work, the fight, the progress continues."

# LEADERSHIP

## OFFICERS

**CHAIR:**  
**KEVIN HERMAN**  
THE SPECIALTY CROP COMPANY

**FIRST VICE CHAIR:**  
**WAYDE KIRSCHENMAN**  
KIRSCHENMAN ENTERPRISES, INC.

**SECOND VICE CHAIR:**  
**MELISSA FRANK**  
WONDERFUL ORCHARDS

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:**  
**LOUIS PANDOL**  
PANDOL BROS., INC.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**STEVE BISWELL**  
FRESH FARMS

**MARTIN BRITZ**  
SUNWEST FRUIT COMPANY

**JACK CAMPBELL**  
DELANO FARMS

**JACK CAMPBELL, JR.**  
FOUR STAR SALES

**STEPHEN CERNIGLIA**  
ROYAL MADERA VINEYARDS

**BILL CHANDLER**  
CHANDLER FARMS, LP

**JERRY DIBUDUO**  
SUN VALLEY FARMS

**ROPE EDDY**  
ANTHONY VINEYARDS, INC.

**RICHARD ELLIOT**  
DAVID J. ELLIOT & SON

**MELISSA FRANK\***  
WONDERFUL ORCHARDS

**RANDY GIUMARRA\***  
GIUMARRA VINEYARDS CORP.

**KYLE HACKETT**  
DAYKA & HACKETT, LLC.

**STEVE HASH**  
HASHWOOD FARMS

**DOUG HEMLY**  
GREENE AND HEMLY, INC.

**KEVIN HERMAN\***  
THE SPECIALTY CROP COMPANY

**MIKE JACKSON**  
KINGSBURG ORCHARDS

**CASEY JONES**  
SUN VALLEY PACKING

**WAYDE KIRSCHENMAN\***  
KIRSCHENMAN ENTERPRISES, INC.

**JARED LANE**  
GRAPEMAN FARMS DBA STEVCO

**HAROLD MCCLARTY\***  
HMC FARMS

**ANDY MUXLOW**  
FAMILY TREE FARMS

**LOUIS PANDOL\***  
PANDOL BROS., INC.

**JUSTIN PARNAGIAN**  
FOWLER PACKING COMPANY, INC.

**MICHAEL REIMER**  
BRANDT FARMS, INC.

**PAT RICCHIUTI**  
P-R FARMS, INC.

**PATRICK SCULLY**  
SCULLY PACKING COMPANY

**KENT STEPHENS**  
MARKO ZANINOVICH, INC.

**SEAN STOCKTON**  
SUNDALE VINEYARDS

**RUSS TAVLAN**  
MOONLIGHT COMPANIES

**MIKE THURLOW**  
MOUNTAIN VIEW FRUIT SALES, INC.

**JOHN TOS**  
TOS FARMS, INC.

**PAUL WILSON**  
RIVERMAID TRADING COMPANY

**CLIFF WOOLLEY**  
MUNGER BROS., LLC.

**JOHN D. ZANINOVICH**  
MERRITT FARMS

**JON P. ZANINOVICH\***  
JASMINE VINEYARDS, INC.

**MARKO S. ZANINOVICH**  
MARKO ZANINOVICH, INC.

## EX-OFFICIOS

**VERNE CROOKSHANKS**

**MICKEY GEORGE**

**HERB KAPRIELIAN**

\* EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



**D**uring the past 12 months, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected virtually everyone's lives in multiple ways and the California Fresh Fruit Association is no different.

It seems like a long time ago when just as I was taking over as CFFA Board Chair from outgoing Chairman Randy Giumarra on March 1, 2020, that we had our first crisis of trying to decide if it was safe for the organization to hold its annual meeting. No one could have predicted then that not only would we cancel the 2020 annual meeting but the 2021 event as well, along with all other scheduled in-person events. Luckily, because of Zoom, the Association was able to conduct some business throughout the year.

They say you can learn a lot about a person from how they are able to navigate through a crisis and I have learned over the past 12 months, just how valuable CFFA is to not only my business but to the entire fresh fruit industry. Ian and his staff really stepped up!

It became obvious that with the ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines our industry needed a way to keep up and the Association's weekly emails did a great job of keeping members informed.

CFFA staff were also busy advocating on the industry's behalf in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

A day did not go by without our staff not communicating with the legislature because one regulation or another just was not practical for agriculture or fighting for our industry's fair share of COVID-19 vaccines for our employees.

COVID-19 has also changed how we do business. In the past the Association rightfully focused our efforts on Sacramento but now Washington D.C. has become a bigger part of the organization's work. For a while now, we have sold a small portion of our crops to the USDA but with all the unemployed people due to covid who needed help with food security, the amounts we currently sell them has skyrocketed! The Paycheck Protection Program loans also became an available program for the industry to utilize, and Association staff were a big help in navigating the application process. After much thought and consideration, CFFA entered a partnership with the California Table Grape Commission to retain a federal lobbyist to help our lobbying efforts in Washington D.C.

With vaccination access for our employees, it finally looks like we are on the verge of having COVID-19 in the rear-view mirror. I am looking forward to the Association being able to turn its attention back to working on the issues that were important before the start of the pandemic. CFFA leadership and staff looks forward to the opportunities of the future, including refocusing on the need for mechanization to help reduce labor for many of CFFA's represented commodities. The Association will also continue to build and expand our partnership with the California Farmworker Foundation to help our employees to advocate for their needs in Sacramento. Then there is water! With the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and a looming drought year, now is the opportunity for the Association to collaborate with others to be a voice for the needed solutions to California's water issues. We know all too well that it is impossible to grow the crops we grow without an ample supply of clean water.

In closing, I once again thank Ian and the wonderful staff that he has assembled for the great job they have all done. I also hope that calmer times are ahead for us all and that the Association can tackle the areas addressed from the strategic planning retreat such as becoming more involved with food safety and perhaps start a leadership program for industry employees. Thomas Jefferson has had a big influence on me and how I conduct myself. He once said, "When the people are afraid of the government that's tyranny but when the government is afraid of the people that's liberty". CFFA's goal always has been and always will be to preserve liberty for California agriculture, our employees, and the crops we grow.

**"I HAVE LEARNED  
OVER THE PAST 12  
MONTHS, JUST HOW  
VALUABLE CFFA IS  
TO NOT ONLY MY  
BUSINESS BUT TO THE  
ENTIRE FRESH FRUIT  
INDUSTRY."**

# TOP ISSUES

*Each year, the California Fresh Fruit Association's Board of Directors identifies its top issues. Below are the areas of focus for the Association. While not specifically listed, issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to have an overarching influence on all advocacy efforts for the year.*

## **INCREASING WAGE COSTS (BASE/MINIMUM WAGE/OVERTIME THRESHOLDS)**

Labor costs continue to increase, resulting from changes to agriculture overtime and an increasing minimum wage, which rose to \$13 per hour for operations with 25 or less employees and \$14 per hour for businesses with 26 or more employees on January 1, 2021. Seasonal wages, along with those in every category of agricultural production such as tractor drivers and irrigators, increase proportionately along with a higher minimum wage. Farmers routinely experience seasonal hourly costs of approximately \$15 to \$20 per hour and these amounts will only increase as the largest business cost for growers and shippers of labor-intensive fresh fruit commodities who must compete in a highly competitive global market.

## **GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (SGMA)**

The passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provides for local management of groundwater basins throughout California. The creation of groundwater sustainability agencies will combine with enforcement mechanisms to ensure the sustainable use of groundwater resources through plans which were required to be in place as of January 2020, to achieve sustainability in the basins within 20 years of implementation. There is significant concern that because of this Act, the governance of groundwater supplies will look much differently in just a few years, as local agencies will be tasked with ensuring that pumping of groundwater does not jeopardize the basin's ability to be sustainable over the long term.

## **FEDERAL IMMIGRATION POLICIES ADDRESSING CURRENT & FUTURE LABOR FORCE**

Despite both legal and political hurdles, we continue to impress upon our elected representatives that Congressional action is needed to ensure a long-term solution towards addressing labor security for the agriculture industry. The Association continues to be a key component in the policy shaping debate on both short and long-term proposals to strengthen labor security.

## **LABOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

Every year the California Legislature considers measures that advance opportunities for organized labor to unionize the agricultural labor force. Missing from that consideration is the thorough examination of the will of the labor force and the value they perceive in paying a percentage in dues for added wages, benefits, and working conditions which either have been addressed or continue to be advanced by the Legislature or through regulation, thus deflating the value of union membership. The Association remains committed and ready to confront biased rulemaking and legislative attempts to tilt the balance against the employer while ignoring the will of the employee to freely choose whether or not to be part of a union.

## **WATER SUPPLY AVAILABILITY & CURTAILMENT**

CFFA represents a highly diverse membership, spanning from Lake County in the north, down through the San Joaquin Valley and south into the Coachella Valley. The need for long-term water certainty remains of utmost importance to sustaining a viable agricultural sector. The drought conditions that continued through 2016, placed significant stress onto farming operations, shifting more permanent fresh fruit crop producers to rely upon groundwater supplies. Despite current hydrologic conditions, the variability of our permanent crops is dependent upon a certain water supply and the political will to protect California agriculture production in the face of our mounting regulatory and legal challenges, which will undoubtedly curtail or limit access to critically needed water supply.



# TOP ISSUES

## **HEALTH CARE COSTS (POLICY COSTS & PAID SICK LEAVE)**

In the wake of the Affordable Care Act employer mandate, providing health care coverage to employees became the norm, as opposed to the exception. It is the desire of the employer to ensure a healthy workplace and continue to make investments into employee wellness. For instance, some employers have created unique partnerships with health-care providers within their own local community and others have created on-site health care options for both farm employees and their families. Employers recognize that healthy employees and families increase the likelihood of continued productivity. However, as employees grow older and health care costs rise onto both employers and employees alike, the Association remains concerned over changes that could shift a larger portion of financial responsibility onto the employer to offer affordable coverage or be faced with offering coverage that borders the line of affordability for both parties in a way that becomes a financial burden for both employer and employee alike.

## **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT (ICE)**

Frustrations continue as earnest attempts to secure passage of a comprehensive immigration package have been met with resistance in both the House and Senate. To ensure the continued production of a domestic food supply, comprehensive reform that contains an agricultural labor component remains vital. In working as part of diverse national coalitions, the Association continues to urge Congressional representatives and the Biden Administration to support measures designed to ensure an adequate and legal work force for agriculture, while highlighting the fact that the pressure on employers and the employee base continue to mount.

## **FEDERAL & STATE FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Ensuring a safe food supply remains a top priority, and the industry continues its advancements in employing science and risk-based practices through food safety research designed to identify potential risks and guide the continued production of safe, fresh fruit. Growers and packers are looking to ensure their implementation of food safety practices exceed government standards such as the Food Safety Modernization Act for safe production and the ever-increasing retailer demands for meeting demand-side food safety expectations. The industry will look to lead with the implementation of science and risk-based practices to continue to preserve consumer confidence and meet their expectations.

## **PLANT HEALTH MATERIALS (PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, FUNGICIDES, ETC.)**

The Association works to protect the use of critical plant health materials to ensure good quality, marketable fruit. The Association is well-positioned to serve as the conduit for preserving critical tools for the fresh grape, berry and deciduous tree fruit sectors in order to meet the demands of the domestic and international markets.

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION COSTS**

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, workers' compensation costs became an important concern given the volume of labor needed to perform field and packing activities. New safety techniques and training were implemented to help to decrease the opportunity of spread of the virus. Additionally, joint liability for both labor contractors and client employers for the failure to maintain valid workers' compensation insurance for workers, potentially add to the growing costs of doing business for growers.



# MEMBERSHIP

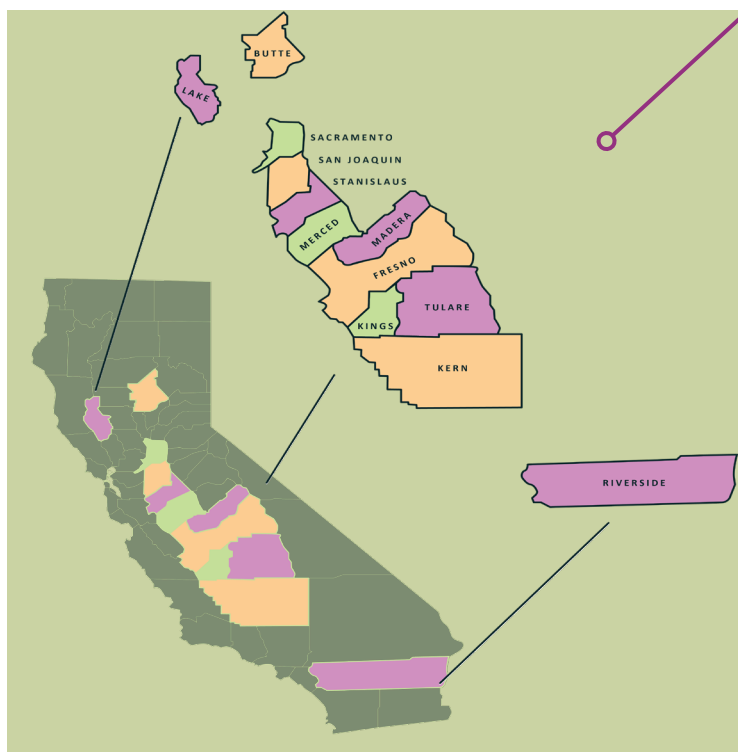
*As a member of the California Fresh Fruit Association, you are part of a unified voice that advocates tirelessly on behalf of the fresh table grape, tree fruit and berry communities. The Association leadership and staff strives to be the best resource for our members on a wide range of issues including labor, trade, water, environmental and regulatory compliance.*

*Through the financial contributions of CFFA members, Association staff is able to advocate on behalf of the fresh fruit industry at the local, state and federal levels. While challenges continue to arise, our strength is in our numbers and together we can continue to make a positive impact on behalf of the industry. CFFA looks forward to continuing to serve you in the next year!*

## 2020/21 New Members

The Membership & Communications Committee kept a steady pace to recruit new Association members. The newest additions include:

AgCode  
alliantgroup  
Associated Labels and Packaging  
Central Valley Community Bank  
Certis USA  
Chevron  
DTL Transport  
Fresno Madera Farm Credit  
Home Grown Organics  
INSECTA LLC  
The Law Office of Melanie Aldridge  
Thunderbird Plastics



The Membership & Communications Committee is responsible for exploring new membership opportunities while communicating the value to current members. Growth in membership is evidence that the Association continues demonstrate the value of being part of a unified voice, where resources are used in the most efficient manner to maximize benefits.

# MEMBERSHIP

THIS ANNUAL REPORT  
SUMMARIZES THE AREAS  
THE ASSOCIATION WORKED  
ON THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR.

For more information or to join visit:  
[www.cafreshfruit.com](http://www.cafreshfruit.com)

### CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION MEMBER PROGRAMS & SERVICES

**CROP INSURANCE**  
CFFA has endorsed Rain and Hail Insurance Service, LLC for over 25 consecutive years and from the value of the percentage of the top quality service and dedication the company provides to California specialty crops. Rain and Hail works with numerous agencies throughout the state to furnish this coverage.

**FULL SERVICE LOGISTICS**  
Association members are eligible to utilize C.H. Robinson's grower shipper program, which was designed to specifically address the transportation needs of fresh fruit operations. CFFA and C.H. Robinson formed a strategic partnership in 2007 to benefit members with transportation management assistance.

**PROPERTY, CASUALTY & AUTO INSURANCE**  
The CFFA Board of Directors approved Zenith Agribusiness Solutions as an endorsed provider of property and casualty insurance for California agribusinesses and farms in January 2015. Zenith Agribusiness Solutions, a division of Zenith Insurance Company, serves as the Association's partner to provide exceptional coverage and service to growers, shippers and associate members through independent insurance agencies.

**RETIREMENT PROGRAM**  
Association members are eligible to participate in a full-service retirement plan through Alerus Retirement Solutions. This specialized program offers great value and services without the added charges and fees.

### CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

**ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION**  
The California Fresh Fruit Association (CFFA) is a voluntary, non-profit agricultural trade organization that represents fresh fruit (apple, orange, and deciduous tree fruit) grown throughout California. CFFA was established in 1935 and is one of the oldest agricultural trade associations in the state. Membership is comprised of nearly 300 members, made up of growers, shippers and exporters of 13 fresh fruit commodities. Growers and shippers members are made up by independent and industry organizations. CFFA's office is located in Central California. Staff also works in Sacramento and Shafter, CA, advocating at the state and federal levels of government.

**JOIN CFFA**  
To join the Association, a prospective member needs to complete a membership application. All applications must be approved by the CFFA Board of Directors. Membership dues are paid on an annual basis. Grower and shipper operations that place fresh fruit into commerce are responsible for paying shipping assessments.\*

**VISIT**  
[WWW.CAFRESHFRUIT.COM](http://WWW.CAFRESHFRUIT.COM)

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & ASSOCIATED DUES**

Shipper	Grower
Annual Dues: \$100 (growing assessment)* Engaged in shipping. The entity is responsible for paying the required assessments to the respective state commission or similar organizations and/or which first place a representative commodity into commerce by loading in crates, in its other terms of transportation, regardless of whether or not it is also engaged in growing the same.	Annual Dues: \$100 (no growing assessment)* Engaged in growing, engaged in shipping but not shipping or marketing the same.
Associate Annual Dues: \$100 Not engaged in growing, shipping or marketing, but is interested and supportive of the purposes of CFFA.	Associate Annual Dues: \$100 An agricultural industry community trade group or commission that is supportive of CFFA and its advocacy efforts.

**MARKETER**  
Annual Dues: \$100 (no shipping assessment)  
Exclusively engaged in marketing a representative commodity, but not growing or shipping the same.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Courtney Kason, Director of Member Services & Communications  
(916) 224-9350 or [ckason@cafreshfruit.com](mailto:ckason@cafreshfruit.com)

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

**CROP INSURANCE**  
Rain and Hail Insurance Service, LLC has served as an endorsed carrier for CFFA for 25 consecutive years, establishing a long-lasting and successful relationship with members. The Association encourages members to select Rain and Hail for their crop insurance needs, based on their top-quality service and solid dedication to California's specialty crops.



**FULL SERVICE LOGISTICS**  
C.H. Robinson has been a successful full service logistics partner for CFFA since 2007. The grower-shipper program offers benefits to members through transportation management assistance to specifically address the logistics needs of fresh fruit operations in California.

**PROPERTY, CASUALTY & AUTO INSURANCE**  
Zenith Agribusiness Solutions has been a CFFA endorsed provider of property & casualty insurance since 2015. Zenith Ag serves as the Association's partner to provide exceptional value, coverage, and service to all members through independent agencies.



**RETIREMENT PROGRAM**  
Alerus Retirement Solutions has been endorsed by the CFFA Board of Directors since 1998. Members are eligible to participate in a full-service 401(k) retirement program. Participants receive additional services with out added charges and fees.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**  
Zenith Insurance Company has been a CFFA endorsed carrier of workers' compensation insurance since 2012. Association members have access to exclusive safety seminars which were developed to address safety enforcement, inspection and training on members operations. All of the material was designed specifically to meet the unique needs of the California fresh fruit industry.

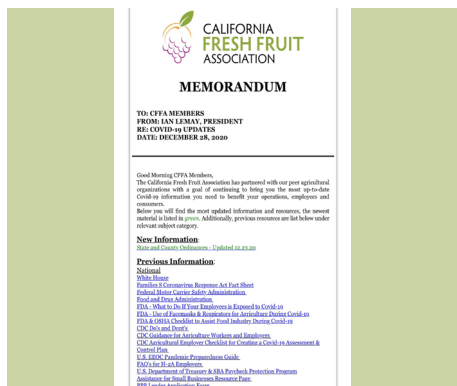


# COMMUNICATIONS

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected CFFA and it's member operations in ways no one could have predicted. The Association leadership and staff made it their top priority to be the best resource and advocate for its members.

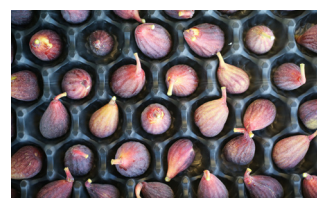
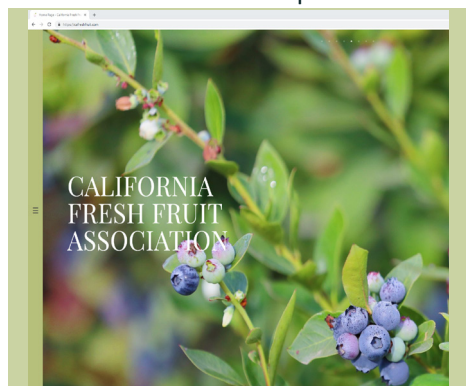
## COVID-19 Resources

With a goal to keep membership up-to-date on the evolving COVID-19 guideline changes, CFFA sent out a specific memo to members three times a week with the latest information and updates. The Association continued to send out the weekly memo through the end of the 2020 calendar year.



## CFFA Website

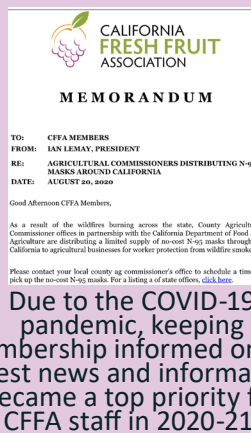
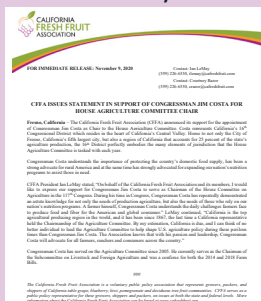
The California Fresh Fruit Association entered a contract with Jeffery Scott Agency in 2020 to complete a revamp of the Association's website. The new site launched officially on March 1, 2021. The goal of the updated site is to showcase the beauty of the 13 commodities the organization represents, while serving as an additional resource tool for membership.



## CFFA 2020-21 OUTREACH EFFORTS

**PRESS RELEASES** 15 press releases  
**MEMBER NOTICES** 48 memos

The Association engaged with industry and statewide media affiliations related to COVID-19, and various other topics 15 times throughout the 2020-21 fiscal year.



## ONTARGET 26 editions

The Association distributed 26 editions throughout the 2020-21 fiscal year to keep membership advised of latest news and compliance updates.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

1,471 followers



3,500 followers

CFFA remained actively engaged with members and the community through its social media platforms. To engage with the Association on social media follow @CalFreshFruit on either platform.



# GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

*Each year, the California Fresh Fruit Association advocates on behalf of the industry on the state and federal level. Due to COVID-19, in-person meetings were limited but CFFA remained engaged with elected officials.*

## ALLIANCE FOR CALIFORNIA'S FARMERS & RANCHERS

Last year, the Alliance of California's Farmers and Ranchers (Alliance) came together to provide an opportunity for members of California's agriculture industry to leverage their collective strength and maximize impact on priority issues for its members. CFFA is proud to have joined this effort. The 2020 work culminated in the successful endeavor to defeat Proposition 15, cementing the Alliance's position as an effective political actor throughout the state.



The Alliance was an active participant in the coordinated effort to defeat Proposition 15, which would have raised taxes on small business owners throughout the state. In what some would consider a novel approach for an agricultural organization, we created an innovative, data-driven campaign focusing on Prop 15's potential to raise the cost of solar energy and overall cost-of-living for families while deploying messages that were specifically targeted towards women. Through the support of Alliance members and other partners, over \$1,200,000 was spent to get our message out across the state. Overall, the combined efforts paid dividends as voters roundly rejected the initiative at the ballot box.

Since the election, the Alliance has launched a television advertising campaign and continue to expand its social media presence specifically targeting members of the legislators and the broader policymaker community, continuing to raise the organizational profile.

In addition to the California Fresh Fruit Association, Alliance partner organizations include California Dairy Inc., California Rice, California Citrus Mutual, American Pistachio Growers and the California Association of Pest Control Advisors. From the beginning, the key to the Alliance's achievements have been strong collaboration, a willingness to take calculated risk, and an eagerness to think outside the traditional confines of what folks traditionally associate as "agriculture issues."

As the Alliance looks to 2021 and beyond, it will continue to embody the same ethos that has gotten us this far: utilizing the Alliance as a collaborative venue to tell positive stories, meet policymakers where they are at on social media and other media channels, and build a more favorable climate among policymakers for our members.

CFFA looks forward to continuing the work with the Alliance and its partnership organizations in 2021 and beyond.

# COLLABORATIONS

## CALIFORNIA FARMWORKER FOUNDATION



THE CALIFORNIA FARMWORKER FOUNDATION HAS REMAINED A KEY PARTNER FOR CFFA. THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, CFF WAS A VITAL RESOURCE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES. HIGHLIGHTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE KEY EFFORTS THEY LED.

## SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

**LA SEGURIDAD EMPIEZA CON USTED**  
protéjase y proteja a otros de COVID-19



Para más información, llame a nuestra línea directa para los trabajadores del campo: 661-446-4077

In July 2020, the California Farmworker Foundation launched a campaign, *La Seguridad Empieza con Usted*, which translates to *Safety Starts with You*, to help the farmworker community stay safe through the COVID-19 pandemic. The ads provided encouragement for best practices and information on additional resources. The campaign reached farmworkers in the greater Bakersfield and Fresno growing regions.

On the Foundation's Facebook page were messages that encouraged safe practices, dispelled myths about the pandemic, and provided tips for increased safety measures in daily life.

This campaign is an expansion of work that the Foundation has done to keep the communities safe during the pandemic, including access to COVID-19 testing, distributing PPE, combatting food insecurity, and providing virtual medical consultations.

The CFF safety campaign was supported by the CFFA and **California Table Grape Commission**.

## THE HEALTHY HARVEST PROGRAM

The Healthy Harvest Program was created by the Central Valley Community Foundation to provide easier access to benefits to employees in the agricultural industry who are unable to work due to COVID-19.



CFFA partnered with the Central Valley Community Foundation, in collaboration with California Department of Food & Ag, California Farmworker Foundation, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, Merced, Fresno, Madera, Kings, and Tulare Counties, County Ag Commissioners and Farm Bureaus, Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueno, Proteus and Central Valley Opportunity Center to help launch this effort.

Benefits of the Healthy Harvest Program included free testing, no cost quarantine housing, PPE, healthcare, food, and compensation while employees are unable to work due to COVID-19. For more information, please visit the website at [www.cosechasana.org](http://www.cosechasana.org) or [www.thehealthyharvest.org](http://www.thehealthyharvest.org).

## COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION



# COLLABORATIONS

## Building Industry Alliances

*During the 2020/21 FY, CFFA partnered with local, state and national agricultural organizations in advocacy and educational efforts to benefit the fresh fruit industry.*

### COVID-19 WEBINARS

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AFFECTED THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND ITS OPERATIONS ACROSS THE STATE AND NATION.

KEEPING EMPLOYEES SAFE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BECAME THE TOP PRIORITY FOR CFFA AND ITS MEMBERS.

CFFA PARTNERED WITH ZENITH INSURANCE COMPANY TO HOST WEBINARS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO HELP THE INDUSTRY NAVIGATE THROUGH THE MANY ISSUES THAT CONTINUED TO RISE.

ZENITH HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSULTANTS COVERED A VARIETY OF TOPICS INCLUDING: COVID-19 TESTING, ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, EMPLOYEE TRANSPORTATION BEST PRACTICES, EMPLOYEE HEALTH MONITORING AND NECESSARY UPDATES TO BUSINESSES INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PLANS.

ZENITH REPRESENTATIVES ALSO DISCUSSED WAYS TO DOCUMENT INCIDENTS FOR RECORD KEEPING.



**TheZenith®**

### UNITED FRESH VIRTUAL WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS PARTICIPATED IN THE UNITED FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION'S VIRTUAL WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, HELD SEPTEMBER 21ST TO 25TH.

THE CONFERENCE COVERED A WIDE-RANGE OF TOPICS ON THE 2020 ELECTION, TRADE AND COVID-19.

ADDITIONALLY, STAFF HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL CONGRESSIONAL VISITS, WORKSHOPS AND NETWORKING RECEPTIONS.

### THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 21-25, 2020 | VIRTUAL EVENT

### ANNUAL GRAPE, NUT & TREE FRUIT EXPO

THE ANNUAL GRAPE, NUT AND TREE FRUIT EXPO WAS HELD VIRTUALLY ON NOVEMBER 13TH.

CFFA PRESIDENT IAN LEMAY PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON THE STATE OF THE TABLE GRAPE AND FRESH FRUIT INDUSTRIES.





# LABOR

## FEDERAL IMMIGRATION PROPOSAL

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2021, U.S. Senator Menendez (NJ) and Representative Sanchez (CA) introduced the U.S. Citizenship Act. A main goal of the legislation is to provide a broad legalization program for “essential workers.” Agricultural workers would become eligible for green cards, while others would have a five-year temporary or prospective immigrant status before becoming eligible, subject to various other conditions.

**CURRENT:** On March 4th, CFFA announced its support for the recently introduced H.R. 1537 “Farm Workforce Modernization Act.” H.R. 1537 will address critical needs within U.S. agriculture by providing a pathway to legal status for current undocumented employees, along with reform to the current H-2A program. This act was previously passed in the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress. CFFA previously supported that bill.

THE LABOR COMMITTEE

CONTINUALLY MONITORS

COMPLEX AGRICULTURAL

LABOR REGULATIONS AT BOTH

THE STATE AND FEDERAL

LEVELS.

## ZEPEDA CASE - AMICUS BRIEF

**BACKGROUND:** The California Fresh Fruit Association was contacted by the plaintiff’s attorney, Mr. Bruce Carrol, in January of 2020 to inform the Association about the pending case and of the potential opportunity to participate in an amicus brief. CFFA President, Ian LeMay, had subsequent conversations about the value of the case with the General Counsel for Western Growers Association (WGA), Mr. Jason Resnick. Mr. Resnick expressed WGA’s intention to participate on the amicus brief and offered to reach out to firms he was familiar with to gauge their interest in formulating a brief. Upon review of multiple law firms, it was assessed that the best firm to formulate an amicus brief on behalf of CFFA and WGA would be Sheppard Mullin. Mr. David Schwartz and Mr. Babak Yousefzadeh, of Sheppard Mullin, have extensive backgrounds in wage and compensation law and are confident in their abilities to formulate a compelling amicus.

### STATEMENT OF CASE:

The Complaint for Declaratory Relief in this case seeks a judicial determination and declaration setting forth the parties’ rights and obligations with respect to the Division’s purported application of Labor Code sections 201, 203, and 1197.1, declaring that the Division may not enforce its underground regulations while ignoring the controlling cases and its own duly promulgated regulation construing these statutes.

Plaintiffs are one individual, and several corporate and other limited liability entities doing business in the Coachella Valley. Plaintiff Vista is a farm labor contractor. Plaintiff Gomez is a principal of Vista, and was the sole proprietor of Vista prior to its incorporation in March, 2016. Plaintiffs Alexandra Dates, East-West Unlimited, Sun World, The Wildwood Group, Anthony Vineyards, and MICA, LLC are growers, and client customers of Vista, cited pursuant to Labor Code

section 2810.3.

In 2016, based on information to the effect that Coachella Valley farm labor contractors had been paying wages “late” when crews were laid off, the Labor Commissioner commenced at least three separate investigations into the wage payment practices of Coachella Valley farm labor contractors.

One of those investigations, designated Labor Commissioner Case No. 35-127103 (Zepeda), was undertaken by Deputy Labor Commissioner Mabel Martinez, into the wage payment practices of Jaime Zepeda Labor Contracting, Inc. This investigation resulted in Wage Citations to Zepeda, Richard Bagdasarian, Inc., and Plaintiffs Anthony Vineyards, Inc., and Sun World International, LLC, which were appealed first to the Labor Commissioner, then to this Court by a Petition for Writ of Administrative Mandamus. Case No. PSC 1705944

# LABOR

## ZEPEDA CASE - AMICUS BRIEF CONTINUED

(with respect to which a Notice of Related Case has been filed). Originally assigned to Judge David Chapman, who recused himself, the case was reassigned to Judge James Latting, who granted the writ on November 14, 2018.

A second, similar investigation, Case No. 35-CM-182936-16 (Vista), was undertaken by Senior Deputy Labor Commissioner Connor Schmeding, into the wage payment practices of Plaintiff Vista. On June 26, 2017, Wage Citations were issued to Vista/Gomez, Alexandra Dates, Inc., East-West Unlimited, LLC, Sun World International, LLC, The Wildwood Group, Inc., Anthony Vineyards, Inc., MICA, LLC, Coachella Valley Ranch Development, Inc. and Brighton Distributing, Inc. This second case differed in certain respects from the first. Two of the cited growers, Sun World and Anthony Vineyards, were the same, however, and the Division

relied in Case No. 35-CM-182936-16 on precisely the same underground regulations and ignored the same controlling authority as it had in the first.

In issuing the Wage Citations in both the Zepeda and Vista cases, the Division ignored the controlling legal authority holding that a seasonal layoff of an entire crew of agricultural workers is not a discharge for the purposes of Sections 201 and 203, and relied instead on its underground regulation to the effect that any “layoff without a definite return to work date is a discharge.” In both cases, the Division disregarded its own duly promulgated regulation (CCR title 8, section 13520), and the controlling cases requiring that the determination of willfulness for the purposes of Section 203 be made according to the good faith dispute analysis--and relied instead on its underground regulation to the effect

that “ignorance of the law is no excuse.”

In Zepeda, Judge Latting ruled, in effect, that a putatively “late” payment of wages in the proper amount is not a minimum wage violation, blocking the Division from misusing its authority under the minimum wage law, Labor Code section 1197.1, to assess waiting time penalties. Faced with this ruling, the Division dismissed the pending Wage Citations in Case No. 35-CM-182936-16, and filed its Cross-Complaint in this case), seeking more than \$400,000 in waiting time penalties—the same waiting time penalties it previously attempted to assess against plaintiffs without hearing, solely on the basis of Vista’s payroll records, without any consideration whether employees gave notice of quitting or whether Vista “willfully failed” to pay wages “on time.”

## STANDARDS & PACKAGING

### GRADES AND STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

**BACKGROUND:** Each year, the California Fresh Fruit Association enters into an agreement with the California Table Grape Commission on technical work related specifically to the table grape industry. It was identified that there was an industry desire to review elements of the current federal and state grades and standards for table grapes.

#### GRADE AND STANDARDS:

The regulations governing the grades and standards for shipping table grape include:

- The United States Standards for Grades of Table Grapes (European or Vinifera Type), updated March 29, 1999
- California Code of Regulations Title 3, Article 25, Section 1436.12 Table Grapes, Maturity Standards, updated June 22, 2000
- Federal Code of Regulations Title 7, Volume 21, Part 35 Export Grapes and Plums, updated January 1, 2008



# MARKETING & TRADE



THE MARKETING & TRADE COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON MARKET ACCESS AND COMPETITIVENESS AT THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. THE COMMITTEES OVERSEES ISSUES FOCUSING ON THE FARM BILL, PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES, FOREIGN TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES.

## CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2

**BACKGROUND:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on September 18, 2020 that it was implementing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP) for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. The application period for CFAP 2 began on September 21st and ran through December 11th.

CFAP 2 payments provided eligible producers with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb some of the increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 outbreak. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based on stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers.

Additional commodities became eligible in CFAP 2 that were not included in the first round of the program. CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of payment

calculations:

- Sales Commodities, including specialty crops, tobacco, and aquaculture, use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales
- Price trigger commodities, including row crops, livestock, and dairy, are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline from January through July
- Flat-rate row crops that do not meet the 5-percent price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre

The Association was pleased that 12 of the 13 commodities it represents were included in CFAP 2.

## USITC REPORT ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MISSING AND LOW PESTICIDE MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS

**BACKGROUND:** On July 30, 2020, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) released the first volume of its report on the impact that policies related to pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) have on international agricultural trade.

The investigation was requested by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) in a letter received on August 30, 2019. The USTR requested that the Commission convey its report in two separate volumes.

As requested, the USITC, an independent, nonpartisan, factfinding federal agency, is assessing the global economic impact of national policies and regulations related to maximum residue levels (MRLs) for plant protection products. The USITC reports will document the impacts of pesticide MRLs, including when they are missing and low, on farmers and exporters in countries representing a range of income classifications.

The information in volume 1 of the report includes, but is not limited to:

- an overview of the role of plant protection products and their MRLs in relation to global production, international trade, and food safety for consumers
- a description of approaches to establishing national and international MRLs
- a description of how MRLs for plant protection products are developed, administered, and enforced in major markets for U.S. agricultural products
- a description of challenges and concerns faced by exporting countries in meeting importing country pesticide MRLs
- case studies describing the costs and effects of MRL compliance and non-compliance for producers in foreign countries
- economic literature reviews

The USITC expects to transmit volume 2 of its report by January 31, 2021, as requested. Volume 2 will include case studies that describe the costs and effects of MRL compliance and noncompliance for U.S. producers and a quantitative analysis on the global impact of MRLs.



## TRADE MITIGATION FUNDS

**BACKGROUND:** In May 2019, USDA Secretary Perdue announced that support would continue in assisting growers confronted with the prolonged trade disruption between the U.S. and China. Market Facilitation Payments were made in up to three batches. The first round of payments began in August 2019 and was comprised of the higher of either 50 percent of a producer's calculated payment or \$15 per acre. For producers who received payments in the first round, their second-round payments were 25 percent of their calculated payments and were issued November 18-28, 2019. The third and final round of payments were announced on February 3, 2020.

**CURRENT:** Trade Mitigation Program: CFFA received direct communication from USDA leadership that no details have been provided on future trade aid. Industry was advised to proceed as if no additional mitigation funds will be made available. USDA issued a Trade Mitigation Purchase solicitation for Fresh Plum purchases on April 28, 2020. Awards were announced on May 26, 2020 totaling \$8,146,679.84.

USDA issued a Trade Mitigation Purchase solicitation for Fresh Apple purchases on May 4, 2020. Awards were announced on June 1, 2020 totaling \$18,344,052.40. USDA issued a Trade Mitigation Purchase solicitation for Fresh Citrus purchases on February 4, 2020 for March – July deliveries totaling \$14,829,332.67 and again on April 30, 2020 for July – September deliveries. Awards were announced on June 3, 2020 totaling \$14,350,211.34. Note: these invitations for bids are part of the Food Purchase and Distribution Program under the authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), with the purpose to assist farmers in response to trade disruption and are

not permanently funded. This funding was awarded in 2019. Section 32 is a permanent appropriation that since 1935 has set aside the equivalent of 30% of annual customs receipts to support the farm sector through the purchase of surplus commodities and a variety of other activities. USDA is also authorized to spend the \$873.3 million available in the Section 32 account for a larger variety of commodity purchases to distribute to food banks. The use of these funds will be determined by industry requests, USDA agricultural market analysis, and food bank needs.

USDA announced its Section 32 Fresh Pear Program on May 21, 2020. The announcement indicated solicitations would be published in the “near future” for up to \$5,000,000. USDA issued its Section 32 solicitation for Fresh Table Grapes on May 4 for June – August deliveries and will likely issue a third and final solicitation for 2020 in mid-August for September – December deliveries. Awards were announced on May 28, 2020 totaling \$10,660,523.75.

CFFA will continue to communicate with AMS on the possible need for Section 32 program for peaches and nectarines. Assistance for USDA Purchasing Programs Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) are located throughout California and can assist businesses with registration and navigating the procurement process. PTACs are staffed by dedicated procurement professionals working to help local businesses compete successfully in the government marketplace.

### AVAILABILITY OF CFFA-REPRESENTED COMMODITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

COMMODITY	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
APPLES												
APRICOTS												
BLUEBERRIES												
CHERRIES												
FIGS												
GRAPES (TABLE)												
KIWIS												
NECTARINES												
PEACHES												
PEARS												
PERSIMMONS												
PLUMS												
POMEGRANATES												



The Environmental Resources Committee is one of the most active CFFA committees due to the intense regulatory pressure that exists in California. Some of the issues targeted include: air quality, pesticide issues and water.

### President Trump's Executive Order on Water Resource Management

**BACKGROUND:** On October 13, 2020, President Trump issued “Executive Order on Modernizing America’s Water Resource Management and Water Infrastructure.” The Executive Order establishes the Interagency Water Policy Committee (also referred to as the “Water Subcabinet”) composed of the secretaries of the departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Energy and of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

**T**he Executive Order sets several deadlines for the Water Subcabinet to make recommendations to the White House’s Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in early 2021. By January 2021, the subcabinet made recommendations to CEQ and OMB to reduce inefficiencies and duplication of federal agencies’ decision-making and actions. By February 2021, the subcabinet made recommendations to CEQ and OMB to increase water storage, water supply reliability, and drought resiliency, to improve water quality source water protection, and nutrient management, and to enhance water data management, research, modeling, and forecasting.





# ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

## San Joaquin Valley Blueprint

**BACKGROUND:** The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley has come together to bring solutions to the table that represent those who will be drastically impacted. The Blueprint is an evolving coalition of water users seeking input and engagement from all stakeholders including counties, cities, environmental organizations, water agencies, industry groups, academia, and community-based organizations.

**CURRENT:** A key component of the Blueprint was assessing the potential economic harm of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) if fully implemented without any mitigating efforts. The Blueprint contracted with Dr. David Sunding of the University of California, Berkeley to model the potential economic impacts. The final report shows that the California economy will suffer unless responsible, balanced water reforms are enacted in the effort to achieve groundwater sustainability goals in the San Joaquin Valley. As outlined in the report, permanent economic impacts will include:

- Counting indirect and induced job losses together with direct losses, California stands to permanently lose as many as 85,000 full-time jobs and \$2.1 billion in employee wages across California. These losses will reach further into the economy as newly unemployed workers have less income to spend on household purchases
- Tax revenue for local and state government is expected to drop by approximately \$535 million per year, based on \$242 million in lost city and county tax revenue and \$293 million in lost tax revenue at the state level
- Up to 1 million acres of productive farmland will be permanently fallowed in the San Joaquin Valley, representing one-fifth of all acres under cultivation in the Valley
- The annual farm revenue loss associated with this fallowing is \$7.2 billion per year, or roughly 14 percent of California's total farm production



## Department of Pesticide Regulation Neonicotinoid Mitigation Measures to Protect Pollinators

**BACKGROUND:** In July 2020, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) released its regulations "Proposed Pollinator Protection Mitigation Measures for Use of Nitroguanidine-Substituted Neonicotinoids in Agricultural Crops." This class of pesticides include clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam. DPR's purpose in promulgating these proposed regulations is to reduce the risk that the application of these pesticides allegedly causes to managed pollinators, specifically bees. These proposed regulations follow DPR's release of a 2018 risk determination and an addendum in 2019.

**CURRENT:** DPR's proposal includes general application and specific crop group restrictions. Among general application restrictions, in-bloom applications would be prohibited, only one of the four active ingredients would be allowed, and except as specified, either soil or foliar application type, but not both, could be used. Pome fruit, citrus, almonds, stone fruit, and grapes all have specific restrictions too based on DPR's assessment that they are moderately or highly attractive to bees.

DPR's proposed regulations would severely limit the use of these neonicotinoid pesticides over the course of normal agricultural operations. Such limitations could unnecessarily expose CFFA members and California farmers and ranchers in general to real threats posed by specific pests and vectors, such as the glassy winged sharpshooter and Asian citrus psyllid. CFFA is working closely with other agricultural associations and stakeholders on this matter.





# LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

### AB 1080 (Gonzalez)/SB 54 (Allen); OPPOSE

Summary: AB 1080 and SB 54 are companion bills that would have established the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, which would impose a comprehensive regulatory scheme on producers, retailers, and wholesalers of single-use packaging and priority single-use products made partially or entirely of plastic. As part of that regulatory scheme, the bill would require producers (A) to source reduce, to the maximum extent feasible, single-use packaging and priority single-use products, and (B) to ensure that all single-use packaging and priority single-use products that are manufactured on or after January 1, 2032, and that are offered for sale, sold, distributed, or imported in or into the state are recyclable or compostable.

**Outcome:** SB 54 was brought up for a vote on the Assembly floor, but failed passage.

### SB 559 (Hurtado); SUPPORT

Summary: SB 559 requires the Department of Water Resources to report to the Legislature, no later than March 31, 2021, on federal funding approved by Congress in its 2021 Congressional Budget Resolution and related appropriations bills or otherwise provided to the Friant Water Authority or other government agency to restore the capacity of the Friant-Kern Canal. The bill would require the department to include in its report a proposal for the state to pay a share of the project cost, not to exceed 35%, and how the money will be spent.

**Outcome:** SB 559 passed the Assembly 68-0 and the Senate 37-2. The Governor vetoed SB 559.



*\*THIS IS A PARTIAL LIST OF BILLS SUPPORTED AND OPPOSED DURING 2020/21. FOR A FULL LIST, CONTACT THE CFFA OFFICE.*

## LABOR:

### AB 685 (Reyes); OPPOSE

Summary: AB 685 creates a notice requirement at the workplace if an employee is exposed to COVID-19, with “exposed” defined as, “exposure to a person with any of the following”: (1) “a positive COVID-19 test,” (2) “a COVID-19 diagnosis,” (3) “a COVID-19-related order to quarantine” or (4) “a fatality that was caused by COVID-19. The employer must notify exposed employees within one business day of the exposure as well as the employees’ rights to sick leave and other COVID-19 related policies. The bill would require an employer, if the employer or representative of the employer is notified of the number of cases that meet the definition of a COVID-19 outbreak, within 48 hours, to report prescribed information to the local public health agency in the jurisdiction of the worksite. The bill would require an employer that has an outbreak to continue to give notice to the local health department of any subsequent laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the worksite.

**Outcome:** The bill passed the Assembly 52-17 and the Senate 26-9. The Governor signed AB 685 on September 17, 2020 and it went into effect January 1, 2021.

### AB 2043 (R. Rivas); OPPOSE

Summary: AB 2043 will require CalOSHA to disseminate information on best practices for COVID-19 infection prevention and employee protections.

**Outcome:** AB 2043 was passed out of the Assembly 67-0 and the Senate 33-0. The Governor signed AB 2043 on September 28, 2020 and it went into effect on January 1, 2021.

### SB 1159 (Hill); OPPOSE

Summary: SB 1159 would define “injury” for an employee to include illness or death resulting from COVID-19 under specified circumstances, until January 1, 2023. The bill would create a disputable presumption that the injury arose out of and in the course of the employment and is compensable if there is an outbreak at a worksite. The bill would require an employee to exhaust their paid sick leave benefits and meet specified certification requirements before receiving any temporary disability benefits. The bill would also make a claim relating to a COVID-19 illness presumptively compensable, as described above, after 30 days or 45 days, rather than 90 days.

**Outcome:** SB 1159 passed the Assembly 69-4 and the Assembly 30-8. The Governor signed SB 1159 on September 17, 2020 and it went into effect immediately.

# FRUITPAC

FruitPAC is the Association's Political Action Committee that generates its support from member participation at three annual events - the spring Annual Meeting, the Harvest Event in the fall, and the positive check-off program. All contributions made throughout the year are approved by the FruitPAC Board of Directors.

## CHAIRMAN

KEVIN HERMAN, **THE SPECIALTY CROP COMPANY**

## SECRETARY

MELISSA FRANK, **WONDERFUL ORCHARDS**

## BOARD MEMBERS

HERBERT KAPRIELIAN, **CRJ FARMING CO. LP**

ANDY MUXLOW, **FAMILY TREE FARMS**

LOUIS PANDOL, **PANDOL BROS., INC.**

JOHN D. ZANINOVICH, **MERRITT FARMS**



## CFFA VIRTUAL HARVEST EVENT

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 41st Annual Harvest Event Reverse Raffle Drawing was held virtually via Zoom on October 30, 2020. Kevin Herman (**The Specialty Crop Co.**), Melissa Frank (**Wonderful Orchards**) and Verne Crookshanks (**Venida Packing Co.**) were the owners of the last three numbers pulled, and chose to split the \$5,000, each donating their portion back to FruitPAC. Kirk Shermer (**Snowden Enterprises, Inc.**) was the lucky winner of the \$1,000 consolation prize. He also chose to donate his winnings back to FruitPAC.

All the proceeds from the ticket purchases go to helping FruitPAC support pro-agriculture and pro-business candidates during each election cycle. In 2020, FruitPAC made over \$30,000 in contributions to candidates and supported the "No on Prop 15" campaign.



# PARTNERSHIPS

THE ASSOCIATION COLLABORATES WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS BY WORKING TOGETHER TO MAXIMIZE EFFECTIVENESS ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT OUR MEMBERS.



## AGRICULTURAL COALITION FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM (ACIR)

ACIR is leading advocate seeking immigration reform to address the short and long-term labor needs for agricultural interests across the nation.

2020/21 Contribution: \$10,000

## AGRICULTURAL PRESIDENTS COUNCIL (APC)

The APC serves to coordinate public policy issues among California agricultural associations and commissions.

2020/21 Contributions: Included in CFFA's governmental relations activities.



## AGRICULTURAL COALITION TEAM

A coalition of agricultural organizations that work collaboratively on issues related to air quality litigation.

2020/21 Contribution: \$5,000

## ALLIANCE FOR FOOD AND FARMING (AFF)

AFF works in areas of public relations, messaging and outreach related to food safety and pesticide use issues.

2020/21 Contribution: \$10,000



## CENTER FOR PRODUCE SAFETY (CPS)

CPS serves as a resource to support best food safety practices and research.

2020/21 Contribution: \$50,000

## CROP PROTECTION COALITION

A coalition of national, regional, and local agricultural organizations seeking to obtain critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide, as well as funding for alternative research.

2020/21 Contribution: \$5,000



## MINOR CROP FARMER ALLIANCE

An alliance of agricultural organizations dedicated to addressing pesticide registrations.

2020/21 Contributions: \$10,000

## OTHER COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

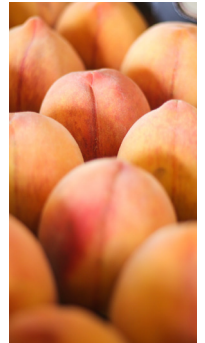
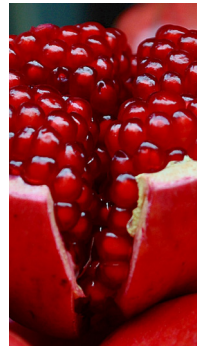
California Farm Water Coalition; California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom; California Women for Agriculture; The Maddy Institute; National Council of Ag Employers; Pacific Legal Foundation; and Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance.

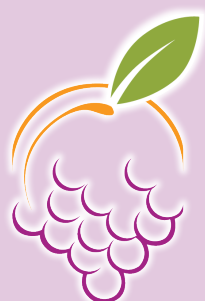


# PAST CHAIRMEN

CFFA IS PROUD TO HONOR THE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP HAS LED TO THE SUCCESS NOT ONLY TO THE FRESH FRUIT INDUSTRY BY ALSO TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE LAST 86 YEARS.

<b>A. SETRAKIAN</b> 1936-43	<b>L.R. HAMILTON</b> 1943-45	<b>J.M. PRENTICE</b> 1945-46	<b>ROBERT TAYLOR</b> 1946-47	<b>E.L. BARR, SR.</b> 1947-48
<b>HAROLD BUTCHER</b> 1948-49	<b>JOHN J. KOVACEVICH</b> 1949-50	<b>DAVID J. ELLIOT</b> 1950-51	<b>WILLIAM A. HAMILTON</b> 1951-52	<b>WILLIAM A. LAMBERT</b> 1952-53
<b>VIRGIL E. RASMUSSEN</b> 1953-54	<b>W.C. "JERRY" DAY</b> 1954-55	<b>MARTIN ZANINOVICH</b> 1955-56	<b>ALFRED TISCH</b> 1956-57	<b>JULIO PERELLI-MINETTI</b> 1957-58
<b>J.A. DIGIORGIO</b> 1958-59	<b>LEONARD LEBLANC</b> 1959-60	<b>M.A. NELSON</b> 1960-61	<b>FRANKLIN GINDICK</b> 1961-62	<b>EDWARD M. ZELLER</b> 1962-63
<b>JACK PANDOL, SR.</b> 1963-64	<b>GROVE E. DYE</b> 1964-65	<b>GEORGE SADOIAN</b> 1965-66	<b>MARION P. NEWTON</b> 1966-67	<b>NICK BURATOVICH</b> 1967-68
<b>E.L. BARR, JR.</b> 1968-69	<b>R.K. SANDERSON</b> 1969-70	<b>ROBERT A. GRANT</b> 1970-71	<b>HOWARD A. HALL</b> 1971-72	<b>DAVID J. ELLIOT, JR.</b> 1972-74
<b>ALLAN CORRIN</b> 1974-75	<b>FRANKLIN DEBUSKEY</b> 1975-76	<b>DEAN MORRISON</b> 1976-77	<b>MILAN CARATAN</b> 1977-78	<b>TONY TRANEL</b> 1978-79
<b>LUCILLE TIDWELL</b> 1979-80	<b>JOHN GIUMARRA, JR.</b> 1980-81	<b>JAMES RUBY</b> 1981-82	<b>HOWARD MASON</b> 1982-83	<b>JACK G. ZANINOVICH</b> 1983-85
<b>DARREL FULMER</b> 1985-86	<b>VERNE CROOKSHANKS</b> 1986-87	<b>MICKY GEORGE</b> 1987-88	<b>LOUIS S. CARIC</b> 1988-89	<b>SARKIS SARABIAN</b> 1989-90
<b>CRAIG RASMUSSEN</b> 1990-91	<b>DOUG HEMLY</b> 1991-92	<b>DENNIS PARNAGIAN</b> 1992-93	<b>KENT STEPHENS</b> 1993-94	<b>WAYNE BRANDT</b> 1994-95
<b>CLIFF SADOIAN</b> 1995-96	<b>STEVE BISWELL</b> 1996-97	<b>RICK WIDHALM</b> 1997-98	<b>KEN ENNS</b> 1998-99	<b>NICHOLAS BOZICK</b> 1999-00
<b>FRED BERRY</b> 2000-01	<b>JIM SIMONIAN</b> 2001-02	<b>JON P. ZANINOVICH</b> 2002-03	<b>DAVID ELLIOT III</b> 2003-04	<b>TONY FAZIO</b> 2004-05
<b>LOUIS PANDOL</b> 2005-07	<b>JERRY DIBUDUO</b> 2007-08	<b>JOHN D. ZANINOVICH</b> 2008-09	<b>MARKO S. ZANINOVICH</b> 2009-10	<b>DAVID O. MARGULEAS</b> 2010-11
<b>STEVE HASH</b> 2011-12	<b>RYAN ZANINOVICH</b> 2012-14	<b>DAVID JACKSON</b> 2014-16	<b>HAROLD MCCLARTY</b> 2016-18	<b>RANDY GIUMARRA</b> 2018-20





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