

CALIFORNIA
FRESH FRUIT
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021- 2022



“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.”

- California Fresh Fruit
Association Mission Statement

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LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN:

Kevin Herman

The Specialty Crop Company

FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN:

Wayde Kirschenman

Kirschenman Enterprises, Inc.

SECOND VICE CHAIRWOMAN:

Melissa Frank

Wonderful Orchards

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Louis Pandol

Pandol Bros., Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Biswell
Fresh Farms

Kyle Hackett
Dayka & Hackett, LLC.

Justin Parnagian
Fowler Packing Company

John D. Zaninovich
Merritt Farms

Martin Britz
Sunwest Fruit Company

Steve Hash
Hashwood Farms

Michael Reimer
Brandt Farms, Inc.

Jon P. Zaninovich
Jasmine Vineyards

Jack Campbell
Delano Farms

Doug Hemly
Greene and Hemly, Inc.

Pat Ricchiuti
P-R Farms, Inc.

Marko S. Zaninovich
Marko Zaninovich,
Inc.

Jack Campbell, Jr.
Four Star Fruit

Kevin Herman*
The Specialty Crop Company

Patrick Scully
Scully Packing Company

Stephen Cerniglia
Royal Madera Vineyards

Mike Jackson
Kingsburg Orchards

Kent Stephens
Sunview Vineyards, Inc.

EX-OFFICIOS
Verne Crookshanks
Venida Packing

Bill Chandler
Chandler Farms

Casey Jones
Sun Valley Packing

Sean Stockton
Sundale Vineyards

Jerry DiBuduo
SunValley Farms

Wayde Kirschenman*
Kirschenman Enterprises, Inc.

Russ Tavlan
Moonlight Companies

Mickey George
Mickey George

Rope Eddy
Anthony Vineyards, Inc.

Jared Lane
Grapeman Farms
DBA Steveco

Mike Thurlow
Mountain View Fruit Sales,
Inc.

Herb Kaprielian
CRJ Packing

Richard Elliot*
David J. Elliot & Son

Harold McClarty*
HMC Farms

John Tos
Tos Farms, Inc.

Melissa Frank*
Wonderful Orchards

Andy Muxlow
Family Tree Farms

Paul Wilson
Rivermaid Trading Company

Randy Giumarra*
Giumarra Vineyards, Corp.

Louis Pandol*
Pandol Bros., Inc.

Cliff Woolley
Munger Bros., LLC.

PAST CHAIRMEN

CFFA HONORS THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE THE ASSOCIATION AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO THE CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT INDUSTRY FOR THE LAST 87 YEARS.

A. Setrakian 1936-43	Julio Perelli-Minetti 1957-58	Howard Hall 1971-72	Mickey George 1987-88	Jim Simonian 2001-02
L.R. Hamilton 1943-45	J.A. Digiorgio 1958-59	David J. Elliot, Jr. 1972-74	Louis S. Caric 1988-89	Jon P. Zaninovich 2002-03
J.M. Prentice 1945-46	Leonard LeBlanc 1959-60	Allan Corrin 1974-75	Sarkis Sarabian 1989-90	David Elliott, III 2003-04
Robert Taylor 1946-47	M.A. Nelson 1960-61	Franklin Debuskey 1975-76	Craig Rasmussen 1990-91	Tony Fazio 2004-05
E.L. Barr, Sr. 1947-48	Franklin Gindick 1961-62	Dean Morrison 1976-77	Doug Hemly 1991-92	Louis Pandol 2005-07
Harold Butcher 1948-49	Edward M. Zeller 1962-63	Milan Caratan 1977-78	Dennis Parnagian 1992-93	Jerry DiBuduo 2007-08
John J. Kovacevich 1949-50	Jack Pandol, Sr. 1963-64	Tony Tranel 1978-79	Kent Stephens 1993-94	John D. Zaninovich 2008-09
David J. Elliot 1950-51	Grove E. Dye 1964-65	Lucille Tidwell 1979-80	Wayne Brandt 1994-95	Marko S. Zaninovich 2009-10
William A. Hamilton 1951-52	George Sadoian 1965-66	John Giumarra, Jr. 1980-81	Cliff Sadoian 1995-96	David O. Marguleas 2010-11
William A. Lambert 1952-53	Marion P. Newton 1966-67	James Ruby 1981-82	Steve Biswell 1996-97	Steve Hash 2011-12
Virgil E. Rasmussen 1953-54	Nick Buratovich 1967-68	Howard Mason 1982-83	Rick Widhalm 1997-98	Ryan Zaninovich 2012-14
W.C. "Jerry" Day 1954-55	E.L. Barr, Jr. 1968-69	Jack G. Zaninovich 1983-85	Ken Enns 1998-98	David Jackson 2014-16
Martin Zaninovich 1955-56	R.K. Sanderson 1969-70	Darrel Fulmer 1985-86	Nicholas Bozick 1999-00	Harold McClarty 2016-18
Alfred Tisch 1956-57	Robert A. Grant 1970-71	Verne Crookshanks 1986-87	Fred Berry 2000-01	Randy Giumarra 2018-20

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ian LeMay
President

It is with great pride that I report that the role and responsibility of your Association remains just as important today, as it was 86 years ago: To serve as the primary public policy advocate for the fresh fruit growers and shippers of California.

Nearly seven and a half years ago, I sat in Barry Bedwell's office, discussing my interest in joining the Association team. Through my own interactions with Barry, I had observed the strength of the industry's collective, admired the longstanding history of the organization itself, and deeply respected the members who had invested their time, talents and treasures creating an entity that spoke as one voice for the California fresh fruit industry. I saw a place that

I wanted the opportunity to be a part of, to build my career at and hopefully, have the opportunity to lead someday. Those seven and a half years have flown by, and today I am more grateful, determined, and invigorated to make a positive and lasting impact for our industry.

It probably goes without saying, but the previous three years were truly years of transition and transformation for the California Fresh Fruit Association. But as I reflect on time passed, I am proud to say that we have weathered the storm, rebuilt our crew, and set a path which we are determined to follow.

As we look back over the last few years, it is easy to identify or dwell on the negative. But when I think about what CFFA has accomplished since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I see far more successes than shortcomings. It is an element that I most admire about our membership and industry, the ability to see the bright side or acknowledge that another season is just around the corner. The ever-present feeling of hope, even if the realities of yesterday still weigh heavy on our hearts.

In the area of ag labor, 2021 brought immense success, both directly and indirectly through CFFA efforts. First, in the June of 2021, through the intense advocacy by CFFA member **Fowler Packing Company**, the United States Supreme Court ruled that "access" under the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which allows union organizers to come onto the private property of farmers/landowners to promote the union, violates the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. To pick up the mantle on behalf of the industry is never easy, but time and again the Parnagian Family has been willing to do so and for that, we are forever grateful.

In addition to the Supreme Court Ruling, Governor Newsom too made a significant decision on ag labor in 2021. After months of advocacy and engagement, in September of 2021, Governor Newsom followed his predecessors' foresight in vetoing the most recent

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

iteration of “Card Check”. Through industry’s engagement, we were able to communicate a cogent argument as to why the proponents of the bill’s intentions were not consistent with the bill’s actual text. Make no mistake, this issue will remain ever-present for industry, but through speaking truth to power, we were able to win the day and thus hold the line for an additional legislative year.

While these successes might seem small to some, in the world that CFFA operates, they are huge successes. All of us know that California is not an easy state to operate in, but without it, we would not be the CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION. This is our state, the place our families call home and where, with some privilege, I’m confident I can say we all hope our next generation builds their own stories in. That is our task, our responsibility at the Association, to preserve and propagate your opportunities. We take this responsibility seriously and with immense appreciation.

Let me close with a few personal acknowledgements. First to our outgoing Chairman Kevin Herman. While your two years as Chairman probably did not go as planned, you are in good company because I think if you asked both Harold and Randy, they would say their years didn’t go as planned either. I’ve read that leaders do not choose the time in which they are called, but they lead, nonetheless. Thank you, Kevin, for exemplifying leadership in troubled times. For your commitment to our industry, its history, and its vibrant future.



Next, to our staff: Courtney, Caroline, Adam, Allyson, Perla and Mary. If I have said it once, I have said it a million times. We are a team; we are this industry’s team. Thank you for repeatedly rising to the occasion, for buying into a vision and committing yourself to an industry that is worth fighting for. It is a privilege to work with each of you every day.

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 finally, to our entire membership. None of this would be possible without your support and dedication to our Association. Your support is not taken lightly and something that we work to justify its value each and every day. Thank you! As I have closed my two previous “State of the Association’s”, I will leave you with this, for CFFA. “The work, the fight, the progress continues.”

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Kevin Herman and Incoming Chairman Wayne Kirschenman

Despite all the challenges related to COVID-19 it has been my pleasure to serve as your chairman for the past two years.

As I began to reflect on my two-year term, I thought about all the things that have happened, and I must admit, not many of them were positive.

1. The COVID-19 pandemic hit right as I took office and the Association had to cancel the 2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings.

2. The Association Board and staff have not once gone to Sacramento or Washington DC because no one was there to lobby.

3. I came down with COVID-19 in July of 2020 prior to the vaccinations being available.

4. The State and Federal government put all sorts of mandates on us that were related to the pandemic.

5. We had a Presidential transition from Donald Trump to Joe Biden.

6. The container shortage made it almost impossible for us to export anything perishable.

7. In January 2022, we had to start dealing with a \$15 minimum wage and even worse, a 40-hour work week!

8. And just when you thought it could not get any worse our illustrious governor just announced that he is requiring retro-active to January 1st to pay each of our employees up to 80 hours of COVID-19 Supplemental Sick Leave pay with little verification required. Oh, and in spite of his having a 32-billion-dollar budget surplus he is going to make us pay for it out of our own pockets!

Enough with the negatives though, I am a farmer so the glass must be half full and in spite of the above, we have a lot to be thankful for:

1. Many of us were able to get PPP 1.0 and/or 2.0 loans.
2. Some of us are also eligible for the Employee Retention Credit.
3. USDA has started to buy a fair amount of our products.

And then there is our organization, the California Fresh Fruit Association! The pandemic forced us to reinvent ourselves just as I was just starting my chairmanship and Ian was in the middle of hiring and training most of our current staff. We learned how to communicate our needs to Sacramento and Washington without being there in person and along the way how to do so in a fashion that allowed us to cut back on our expenses and to build our reserves back up.

The Association also hired a federal lobbyist in conjunction with the **California Table Grape Commission** as an acknowledgment of the growing importance of USDA's focus on specialty crops.

We have also come to recognize the importance of mechanization in agriculture and have started down this path by investing with other boards so as it becomes more difficult to find

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

people who want to work in the fields, we hopefully will have a smooth transition. Food safety is also of growing importance to our industry and in another first for our association we have entered into a strategic partnership with George Nikolich to not only make sure our members are in compliance, but to also ensure that we are providing the safest food possible to consumers.

The employees on our ranches and in our packing houses are also important to each and every one of us and we all know we could not do what we do without their help. Like us, they also need a voice to express their concerns and problems since they were not getting that help from other organizations that claimed to do so. We are proud of our efforts to help establish the **California Farm Worker Foundation** about five years ago. It has grown to over 5,000 members and a staff of 30. It has become the “go to” choice for politicians and the media that want to learn about what “real” farmworkers think and need. CFF has also helped members with a wide variety of issues from immigration to COVID-19 vaccinations and food insecurities. As they continue to grow in prominence, we will be well served to listen to their concerns as issues like affordable housing, amongst others pop up.

In closing, I want to thank Ian and his staff for everything they do. They certainly made my job during these difficult two years easier. I firmly believe that the services provided to our growers is of great value.

Of course, I also need to thank my family for all of their support. Diane, Erik, and Lindsey all helped to create the time needed for this chairmanship over the past two years by helping with many of my other responsibilities.

CFFA is truly a great organization with a lot of history, and I am humbled to have been your Chairman these past two years. If you ever get a chance, go into CFFA's conference room and look at the old pictures of when our office was in San Francisco and, not to mention the list of all the iconic Chairmen that we have had as it is truly a “who's who” of the California fresh fruit industry. I also want to wish Wayde Kirschenman our incoming Chairman a smooth and COVID-free two years and know that he has an incredible staff to lean on for guidance and support.



TOP ISSUES

EACH YEAR, THE CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS IDENTIFIES ITS TOP ISSUES FOR THE ORGANIZATION TO FOCUS ON. THE AREAS IDENTIFIED ARE LISTED BELOW.

WATER SUPPLY AVAILABILITY &
CURTAILMENT

INCREASING WAGE COSTS
(BASE/MINIMUM WAGES/
OVERTIME THRESHOLDS)

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT
REQUIREMENTS (SGMA)

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION POLICIES
ADDRESSING CURRENT & FUTURE
LABOR FORCES

NEW TAXES
(COMMERCIAL & CORPORATE)

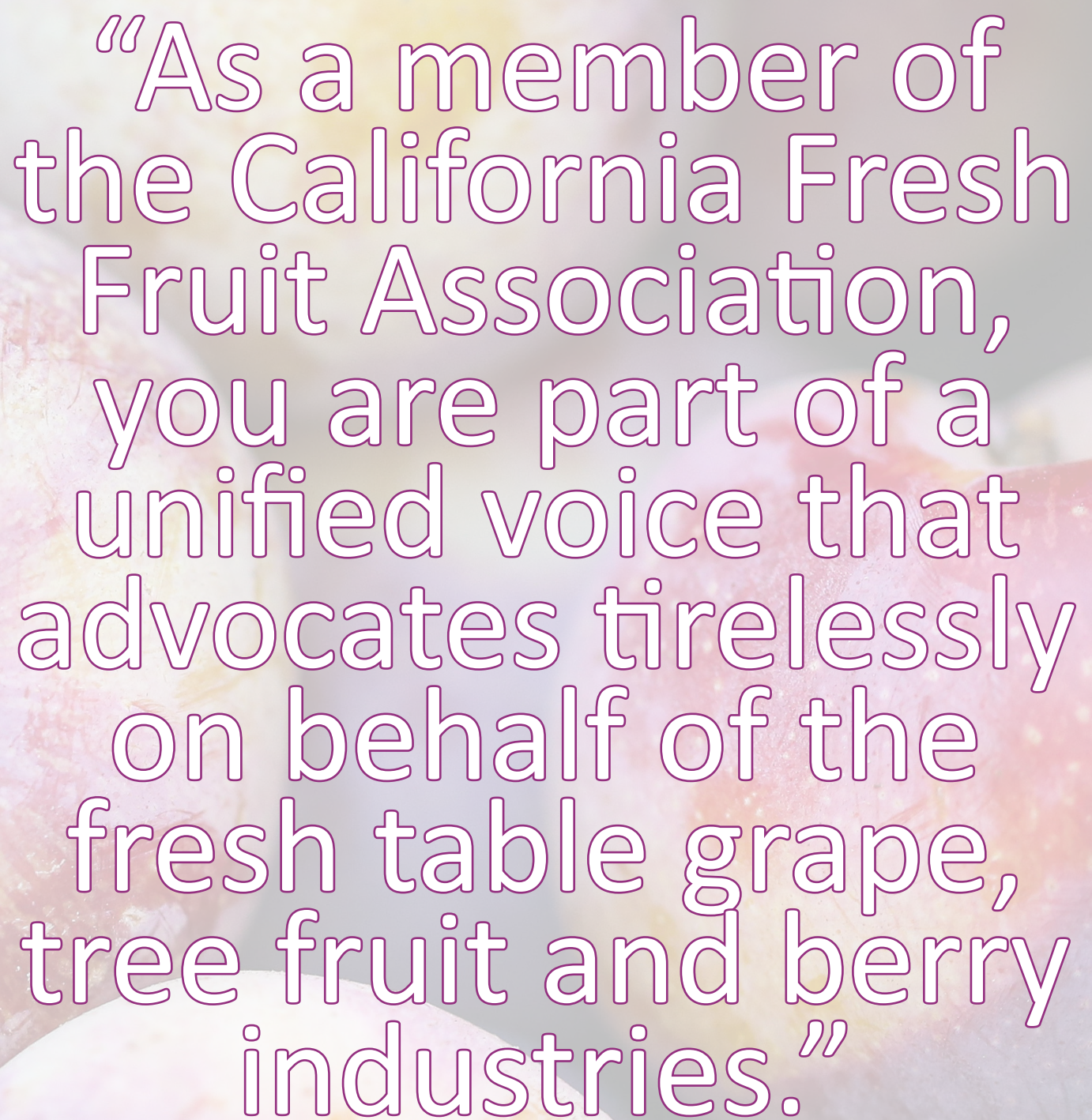
HEALTH CARE COSTS
(POLICY COSTS/PAID SICK LEAVE)

LABOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

RISING FUEL & ENERGY COSTS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COSTS

FEDERAL & STATE FOOD SAFETY
COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS



“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 industries.”

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) OF 2014

In January 2020, pursuant to SGMA's statutory deadline, groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) submitted the groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for high- and medium-priority basins in critical overdraft. Most of the San Joaquin Valley is included in these basins.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) had a two-year period to review and assess the GSPs, as of the time of their 2020 submittal. In January 2022, DWR released its determinations for this first tranche of GSPs. While DWR approved eight GSPs, 20 GSPs were deemed incomplete, including all of the plans in the San Joaquin Valley. DWR noted that the areas of deficiency in these plans pertain to impacts to drinking water, water quality, infrastructure due to continuing subsidence, and interconnected streams and surface water.

GSAs with incomplete plans will need to consult with DWR within 180 days (by late July 2022) to amplify the GSPs with more specificity in data, detail, and methodology. Because DWR assessed the GSPs as of the date of submittal in 2020, the two additional years of local data collection, metering, studies, and analysis should hopefully improve the prospects of approval by the state. However, if DWR does not approve the amended plans and determines the GSPs are inadequate, the State Water Resources Control Board will then decide to declare the basins in probation and intervene to develop a plan.

STATE WATER PROJECT BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS

In February 2020, President Trump signed the Record of Decision (2020 ROD) for the 2019 biological opinions (2019 BiOps) on the coordinated long-term operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) for protected species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Subsequently, the State of California and environmental organizations sued the federal government to block the 2019 BiOps. Additionally, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) to operate the State Water Project in compliance with the state's ESA. Whereas the federal and state governments usually operate the CVP and SWP via a coordinating agreement, the federal 2019 BiOps and state ITP resulted in different operational requirements for the two projects.

On September 30, 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced its intent to re-initiate ESA Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the 2019 BiOps. The 2019 BiOps reflect the best available, peer-reviewed science and data collected over a decade of recent significant hydrologic changes in the Delta watershed and substantial modifications to the CVP-SWP operations in the Delta.

On October 14th, federal and state agencies submitted a proposed single-year interim operations plan for the CVP and SWP in the consolidated litigation challenging the 2019 BiOps and 2020 ROD. This interim plan significantly deviates from the operations described in the 2019 BiOps and was not subject to scientific or public review. The interim plan also stalls progress in achieving voluntary agreements to manage the Delta watershed.

In separate letters, California's Republican Congressional delegation and Democratic members (U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representatives Jim Costa, John Garamendi, and Josh Harder) criticized the interim operations plan and its inclusion in the state's litigation. CFFA also drafted and sent a letter critical of the plan in a coalition with other agricultural organizations.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION STATEWIDE NOTIFICATION PILOT PROJECTS

The state's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget allocated \$10 million to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation for the development of a statewide program for notification of pesticide applications.

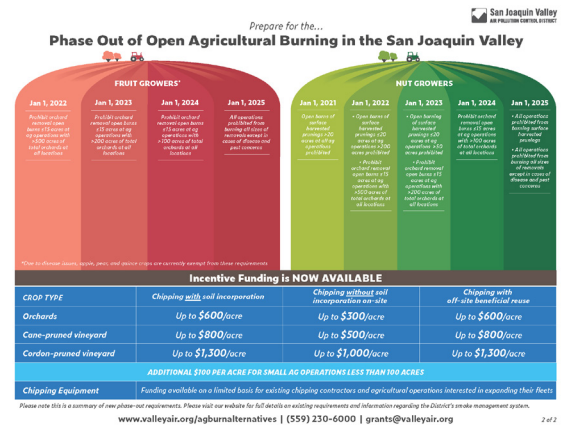
DPR conducted virtual workshops in November 2021 to solicit input from stakeholders and the public at large regarding the development and design of a notification program. CFFA provided comments that focused on minimizing disruptions to members' applications, such as limiting notification to restricted use materials and to local communities in the vicinity of the applications. CFFA and other agricultural organizations also advocated for local pilot projects.

Following stakeholder input, DPR is reaching out to county agricultural commissioners to develop local pilot projects. DPR plans to continue with pilot projects in 2022, develop a regulatory proposal in 2023, and enact the state regulation in 2024.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY BURNING ASSESSMENT

On February 25, 2021, the California Air Resources Control Board (CARB) approved the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (the District) 2020 Staff Report and Recommendations on open agricultural burning. This report includes the District's strategy to further reduce open agricultural burning in the valley and a postponement on the prohibition of open burning as required by SB 705 (Florez, 2003). CARB's vote concurred with the District's report and incorporated additional criteria. The criteria included providing a timeline for crop-specific reduction benchmarks to achieve the burning prohibition by January 1, 2025.

On May 27, 2021, the District released its Draft Supplemental Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning. Pursuant to CARB's concurrence, this supplemental report describes the specific details of the benchmarks and timelines by commodity to achieve the 2025 prohibition deadline. In general, large agricultural operations will have to cease open burning by January 1, 2022. With respect to grapes, burning for vineyard removal will be prohibited at agricultural operations greater than 2,000 acres in cordon vineyards and 500 acres in cane vineyards by January 1, 2022. For cordon vineyards, the reduction thresholds will be lowered to 1,000 acres by January 1, 2023 and 250 acres by January 1, 2024, while for cane vineyards, the phase-out will be 250 acres by January 1, 2023 and 100 acres by January 1, 2024. With respect to stone fruit commodities, the open burning of orchard removals will be prohibited for agricultural operations greater than 500 acres by January 1, 2022. The prohibition threshold is lowered to 200 acres by January 1, 2023 and 100 acres by January 1, 2024. Except for instances of disease, all open burning of vineyards and orchards will cease by the beginning of 2025.



The state's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget allocated \$180 million in incentive funding for non-combustible biomass disposal alternatives, such as chipping and soil incorporation. On September 1, the District went live with an electronic portal for farmers to sign up for the incentive funding. Crucially, the District lifted the previous \$60,000 funding cap that it had imposed in its previous incentive program. The District also has funding available for equipment and fleet expansion, such as chippers, grinders, and incorporators.

AB 616 CARD CHECK LEGISLATION VETOED

On February 12, 2021, Assemblymember Mark Stone introduced AB 616, the latest attempt at “card check” legislation. If enacted, this bill would have allowed for a representation ballot card election as an alternative to the current secret ballot election for agricultural workplace unionization authorized under the Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA). The card check process would have permitted employees to sign a card in the presence of interested parties.

With over 40 members of the Legislature signed on as co-authors, AB 616 passed the Assembly on a 50-17 vote and the Senate on a 24-11. Fortunately, Governor Newsom vetoed the bill on September 22nd.

The CFFA Executive Committee approved the expenditure of \$25,000 for CFFA to participate in a coalition campaign with other statewide agricultural organizations to oppose AB 616. The campaign focused on protecting the sanctity of voting via secret ballot. Governor Newsom referred to “various inconsistencies and procedural issues related to the collection and review of ballot cards” with his veto of AB 616.

In his veto message, Governor Newsom directed the Labor and Workforce Development Agency “to work collaboratively with the Agricultural Labor Relations Board and all relevant stakeholders to develop new policies for legislative consideration.”

CAL/OSHA COVID-19 EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD

On June 17, 2021, after much confusion, the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Cal/OSHA Standards Board) approved the revised COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS). Cal/OSHA adopted the original ETS in November 2020 as its attempt to protect workers and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The adoption of the revised ETS occurred after a previously adopted version was pulled in light of additional guidance by the California Department of Public Health for the state’s reopening on June 15.

In December 2021, Cal/OSHA adopted an extension of a modified ETS. The proposal includes significant, stringent changes, including re-instituting partial social distancing, increased testing and face coverings for unvaccinated and vaccinated employees, and additional requirements for employee housing.

Effective March 1, 2022, masks are no longer required for unvaccinated employees indoors, consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). However, employers must still provide a face covering upon an employee’s request. Governor Newsom extended the ETS through May 5, 2022, to provide the Cal/OSHA Standards Board adequate time to review the CDPH guidance in anticipation of the next ETS readoption.

CFFA opposed the adoption of the current Cal/OSHA ETS as part of a broad agricultural and business coalition.

COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL PAID SICK LEAVE

On February 9, 2022, Governor Newsom signed into law SB 114, the 2022 COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave (SPSL). The new law applies to all employees who work in California for employers with 26 or more employees. The available leave has two tranches: an initial bank of up to 40 hours for various qualifying COVID-19 reasons (including being subjected to quarantine or isolation and children’s school closures) and a second bank of up to 40 hours for positive COVID-19 cases. The employee leave entitlement is retroactive to January 1, 2022, and is set to expire on September 30, 2022.

With the cost of SPSL currently shouldered by employers (and the state projecting another surplus fiscal year), CFFA has advocated to the state that the SPSL law should be amended to provide a payroll tax credit and reimbursement.

US SUPREME COURT DECLARES ACCESS TO FARMS BY UNION ORGANIZERS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

On June 23, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Cedar Point Nursery v. Hassid* that under California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA), access by union organizers to come onto the private property of farmers and landowners to promote the union violates the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

According to Chief Justice John Roberts, who authored the opinion, "unlike a mere trespass, the regulation grants a formal entitlement to physically invade the growers' land. Unlike a law enforcement search, no traditional background principle of property law requires the growers to admit union organizers onto their premises. And unlike standard health and safety inspections, the access regulation is not germane to any benefit provided to agricultural employers or any risk posed to the public."



STANDARDS & PACKAGING

GRADES AND STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

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.

GRADES AND STANDARDS

The regulations governing the grades and standards for shipping table grapes 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

USITC BLUEBERRY INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

The U.S. International Trade Commission (“USITC”) determined in a unanimous vote on February 11, 2021 that imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen blueberries have not increased in quantities sufficient to be a serious cause of injury to the domestic industry. On September 29, 2020, the United States Trade Representative requested that the USITC initiate an investigation under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 (“global safeguard investigation”), as part of the previous U.S. administration’s interagency plan to address increased imports of certain perishable produce. As a result of the USITC’s vote, this global safeguard investigation will be terminated and no additional duties, quotas, or other trade remedies will be imposed on imports of blueberries into the United States.

SUPPLY CHAIN CRISIS

International supply chains continue to be impacted by severe congestion, and a lack of containers and space on outbound ocean vessels. The California legislature is considering a bill to increase protections from unfair detention and demurrage charges for those doing business in California’s ports. AB 2406 complements the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA) now moving through Congress. CFFA has signed onto a letter supporting AB 2406 as well as OSRA and continues to engage with stakeholder groups, policy makers, and regulators on this important issue. As conditions continue to deteriorate at West Coast ports, truck and trucker shortages exacerbate the situation while consumers are beginning to feel the impacts of higher prices across sectors. CFFA continues to work with the Agriculture Transportation Coalition advocating for short, medium, and long-term solutions. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have expanded operational hours in early October 2021 and Governor Newsom issued an executive order directing state agencies to take steps alleviating container storage issues, truck weight limitations, and labor shortages at the ports.



FRUITPAC

FRUITPAC IS CFFA'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE THAT GENERATES SUPPORT FROM MEMBER PARTICIPATION AT THREE ANNUAL EVENTS: THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING IN THE SPRING, THE HARVEST EVENT IN THE FALL AND THE POSITIVE CHECK-OFF PROGRAM.

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN:

Kevin Herman

The Specialty Crop Company

SECRETARY:

Melissa Frank

Wonderful Orchards

BOARD MEMBERS

Virginia Hemly Chhabra, Greene and Hemly

Herb Kaprielian, CRJ Farming Co.

Andy Muxlow, Family Tree Farms

Louis Pandol, Pandol Bros., Inc.

John D. Zaninovich, Merritt Farms

FruitPAC Harvest Event

The 42nd Annual Harvest Event hosted over 90 guests at The Vintage Press Restaurant in Visalia on November 12th. The event was a great success due to the generosity and participation of Association members. The staff at The Vintage Press provided exceptional service throughout the reception and dinner.



A special thank you to the Associate members who helped make this event a success!



FRUITPAC

California Fresh Fruit Association
Political Action Committee

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

LT. GOVERNOR VISITS THE VALLEY

On Wednesday, May 26th CFFA had the opportunity to host California Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis for a roundtable discussion on issues facing the agricultural industry.

The Association would like to thank Congressman Jim Costa and Fowler Packing CEO Justin Parnagian for hosting Lt. Governor Kounalakis in a tour of Fowler Packing's facility.

Following the site visit, the Lieutenant Governor sat down for a roundtable discussion with CFFA President Ian LeMay, Chairman Kevin Herman (**The Specialty Crop Company**), Harold McClarty (**HMC Farms**), Justin Parnagian (**Fowler Packing Company**). Additionally, representatives from California agricultural organizations took part in the conversation.



The group focused their discussions on the California drought along with labor and trade issues. This is the first time the Association has had the opportunity to engage with Lt. Governor Kounalakis and looks forward to working with her office in the future.

CFFA MEETS WITH HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

On Thursday, October 14th the Association co-hosted a luncheon and roundtable discussion with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy in Bakersfield. The event was attended by President Ian LeMay and Director of Government and Public Policy Adam Borchard along with several Association members. The luncheon provided attendees the opportunity to engage with Congressman McCarthy on issues important to membership such as labor and water.

USDA SECRETARY TOM VILSACK VISITS THE CENTRAL VALLEY

On August 5th, CFFA President, Ian LeMay, met with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to discuss current issues facing U.S. agriculture. The meeting was convened by Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) and hosted at Terranova Ranch in Helm, CA. Also in attendance were Congressman David Valadao (R-Hanford), California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, President/CEO Kathleen Nave of the **California Table Grape Commission** and other allied agriculture associations.

Secretary Vilsack took a great deal of time to listen to comments from those in attendance and to thoroughly lay out USDA's actions on the issues



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

raised, including the historic drought, infrastructure, immigration reform and the China tariff dispute. This was the Secretary's first visit to California during his tenure with the Biden Administration.

CFFA MEETS WITH ASSEMBLYWOMAN AKILAH WEBER

On August 11th, CFFA staff hosted an agricultural education tour for newly-elected Assemblywoman Akilah Weber (D-San Diego). Organized with the Agricultural Presidents' Council and **Kahn, Soares & Conway**, Dr. Weber visited Syngenta's seed research facility in Woodland and **Greene and Hemly** in Courtland. During the stops, the Assemblywoman learned about varietal development processes, orchard and packing operations, and produce marketing. The tour touched on numerous topics, including genetics, nutrition, integrated pest management, labor safety, water resource management, and rural-to-urban outreach. Dr. Weber's colleague, Assemblyman Adam Gray (D-Merced), also joined in the legislative tour.



STATE SENATOR WATER TOUR

On September 13th and 14th, CFFA President Ian LeMay and Director of Government and Public Policy Adam Borchard along with peer agricultural organizations hosted California State Senators for a tour of the Salinas and San Joaquin valley's. The visits focused on labor and water issues effecting the industry in each of the regions.

CFFA MEETS WITH SENATOR PADILLA ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

August 10th, CFFA President Ian LeMay led a conversation with Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) on the need for comprehensive immigration reform. CFFA was joined by allied agriculture associations, who each expressed the collective need of the industry to see the current bill being considered, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (FWMA), signed into law. FWMA has already passed out of the House of Representatives twice on a bi-partisan vote, first in 2019 and then again in 2021. It now sits in the U.S. Senate for consideration.

Senator Padilla expressed his support for reform, updated the group on what he thought would be the most opportune path for the bill, and committed to all parties that he would keep us apprised of any advancements to the legislation.

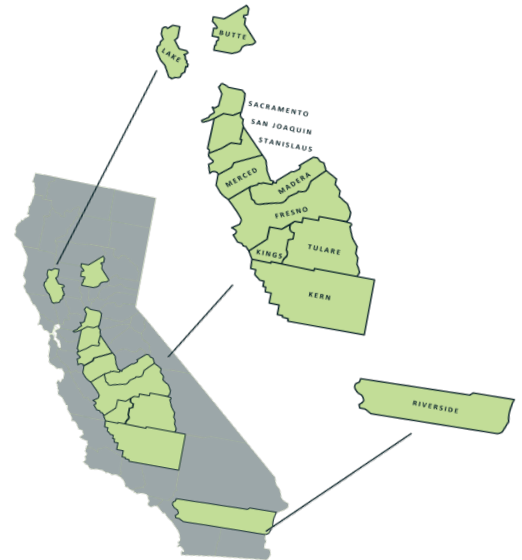
MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP AND STAFF STRIVE TO BE THE BEST RESOURCES FOR ITS MEMBERS ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING LABOR, TRADE, WATER, ALONG WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.

THROUGH THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF IS ABLE TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE FRESH FRUIT INDUSTRY AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS. CFFA LOOKS FORWARD TO SERVING IN THE NEXT YEAR!

2021/22 New Members

CA Fig Advisory Board
Der Manuel Insurance Group
Helena Agri-Enterprises
K-Coe Isom
Nutrien Ag Solutions
Regency Investment Advisors
UPL, OpenAg
Valley Republic Bank



CFFA MEMBERS SPAN ACROSS CALIFORNIA FROM LAKE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTIES.

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Compensation

For more information or to join, please visit:
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COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION COLLABORATES WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS BY WORKING TOGETHER TO BE A STRONGER VOICE ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT OUR MEMBERS.



The California Farmworker Foundation has remained a key partner for CFFA.

CFF continues to be a vital resource for Association members and their employees.



The Annual Grape, Nut and Tree Fruit Expo was held at the Fresno Fairgrounds.

CFFA Director of Government and Public Policy Adam Borchard provided an updated on the state of the table grape and fresh fruit industries.



***Photo courtesy of Malcolm Media.*

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

AGRICULTURAL PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL (APC)

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

ALLIANCE FOR FOOD AND FARMING (AFF)

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

CENTER FOR PRODUCE SAFETY (CPS)

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

MINOR CROP FARMER ALLIANCE

An alliance of agricultural organizations dedicated to addressing pesticide regulations.

OTHER PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS

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

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Left: Chairman Kevin Herman recognized out-going Chair Randy Giumarra for his service to the organization.



Right: CFFA hosted CA Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis for a roundtable discussion at Fowler Packing Company with representatives from CA agricultural organizations.



Left: CFFA President Ian LeMay moderated a panel during the inaugural AgTechX Ed Initiative Conference at Reedley College.



Above: CFFA hosted the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Class XVII for dinner.



Left: CFFA President Ian LeMay met with Governor Gavin Newsom and Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis in Sacramento.

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