

Housing bill points fingers at farmers, while restricting funds

The California Legislature is nearly set to cast the final votes on a bill proposing a new streamlined process for building much-needed farmworker housing. The sponsors driving the bill, however, have inserted four provisions that are raising eyebrows in the agriculture community. The bill would also roll back existing funds that voters approved last year for farmworker housing.

Assembly Bill 1783 proposes a streamlining process that has been successful in past bills. Senator Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco, included similar provisions to streamline housing approvals in cities in Senate Bill 35 in 2017. The following year, Wiener worked with Senator Andy Vidak, R-Hanford, on SB 829, which applied the same strategy toward rezoning ag land for farmworker housing.



Assemblymember Robert Rivas has introduced a bill to streamline housing for farmworkers.

Incidentally, Vidak later lost his reelection bid to Melissa Hurtado. In her first year of office, Hurtado has voted in favor of AB 1783.

With the state facing a complex housing crisis, the notion of streamlined approval has had broad appeal in the legislature.

According to Matthew Allen, who directs legislative affairs for the Western Growers Association, farmworker housing projects are held up at the local level for a number of reasons. This includes “NIMBY” concerns, problematic local ordinances or jurisdictions “just merely holding up the conditional use permit,” such as not approving the sewage permit in a timely manner.

This grows more challenging as farmers increasingly turn to the H-2A guest worker program to fill the labor gap, which requires them to supply housing free of charge. A shortage of housing on ag land has also added pressure to the few remaining options, including apartments, rental homes and hotels.

In a written statement, Wiener said SB 829 would address major problems like “local obstruction to badly needed housing for farmworkers who are often forced to live in distant motels or their cars instead of in proper housing.”

Allen said labor groups then inserted a “poison pill” into Wiener’s bill that led to him pulling it after one hearing. SB 829 was completely gutted and then amended to be a bill on child care, which was again amended to be a bill on cannabis.

The poison pill was a provision that landowners must hand over their keys to a third-party, a qualified affordable housing organization, to manage the facility. United Farm Workers (UFW) had opposed a similar bill that died the year before and did not have such a provision.

This year, UFW sponsored AB 1783 and revived the third-party provision, while adding more. The farmer would now be required to hand over keys to the housing organization for at least 55 years.

When asked about this, the bill’s author, freshman Assemblymember Robert Rivas, D-Hollister, said the program is strictly voluntary and farmers would not have to opt in if they don’t like the provisions. This has helped the bill to pass several votes in both houses, with Republicans voting in opposition.

A third provision, however, would also roll back an existing funding source for housing development.

In 2018, the Legislature passed SB 3, which proposed \$4 billion in general fund obligations to go toward housing and employment programs. That bill was the basis for Proposition 3, which voters passed in the November election. The bond distributed \$300 million of the allocations to the Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Fund to go toward housing retrofitting or development for agricultural employees and their families.

AB 1783 now sets a restriction on that funding. To qualify for the grants, a farmer would have to sign up for the proposed streamlined housing program, handing over keys to a third party for 55 years.



Senator Scott Wiener introduces SB 35 in 2017 to streamline affordable housing in cities.

“It seems antithetical if we have a bill that restricts how we spend that money, if the investment is for affordable housing for all,” said Taylor Roschen, legislative director for the California Farm Bureau Federation, adding that it runs counter to the intention of SB 3 and Prop 1.

Matthew Allen said this could make it difficult for a bank to approve a loan, since the owner does not have control over the property.

A fourth provision included in AB 1783 is that it would restrict the Prop 1 funds from being used for housing H-2A guest workers. During her testimony, Roschen said this would not allow farmers the flexibility needed during the labor shortage. Rivas’ response was that not enough state funds exist to pay for workers in a federal program.

“The community block grant program is designed to help alleviate poverty, not provide corporate subsidies, especially for big ag,” said Rivas.

Matthew Allen pointed out that California has about 18,000 H-2A employees and about 800,000 farmworkers, which means that most are domestic employees and most farms have a mix of workers. He said the provision discriminates between two classifications of employees who both want to live and work in California.

The provision also creates a situation where a farmer could sign up for the program, but the following year experience a labor shortage requiring him to hire H-2A workers. He would then have to reimburse the state for the dollars utilized from the state housing fund.

“We are really concerned about the narrative this is setting up,” said Allen.

In advocating for the provision on third-party management, Rivas and the bill’s proponents argue that having an employer as the landlord “invites abuses” by making it difficult for workers to come forward about poor living and work conditions. Rivas also referred to the housing situation as a humanitarian crisis, with children of farmworkers left homeless and families living in garages, tents, vans and abandoned buildings.

Roschen was quick to clarify that those cases happen when farmers are not able to build housing on ag land and is not a result of the H-2A program.

Housing for the program must meet federal standards, while California has its own regulations for farmworker housing. The Department of Housing and Community Development has been specifically charged with inspecting this type of housing, in order to ensure the inspections are done in a timely manner ahead of the narrow harvest window.

“It's not like the state's telling the ag industry ‘You guys need to do more on housing and you guys are refusing,’” said Allen, adding that farmers already want to build on ag land.

United Farm Workers has also been describing the bill as an anti-Trump measure.

“AB 1783 will incentivize the construction of affordable family housing for farm workers while banning the use of state funds to advance the Trump administration's backwards immigration policies,” said UFW President Teresa Romero, [in a press release](#) put out by Rivas’ office.

A UFW representative also claimed in one hearing that Trump created the H-2A program and that it “prevents farmworkers from living freely from the control of the employer.” H-2A actually began in 1986, with the most recent revisions occurring under President Barack Obama’s administration.

On the federal level, UFW has been an outspoken opponent to the program. The former UFW president recently testified in Congress that lawmakers should increase farm wages as part of the program and require overtime pay (though California now has its own ag overtime law in effect).

During the Legislature’s summer recess, Rivas added amendments to AB 1783. But Allen was unswayed. He said the changes related to ministerial permits and made the proposal even “less attractive” to farmers, since counties have backfilled requirements into that program. The bill remains a concern.

"It doesn't move the ball in a positive way for us," he said. "It basically ties our hands on the state level, when we're actually trying to get them untied to get more housing in."

Along with Western Growers and the Farm Bureau, opponents to the bill include 35 county farm bureaus and trade groups for pistachio, cherry, strawberry, cut flower and winegrape growers.

As Rivas continues to negotiate over amendments, he bumped to next week the bill’s hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee. If it passes that step, AB 1783 would be up for a floor vote in that house before the Assembly would take a final vote on the amendments and pass the bill to the governor’s desk.

Six questions for California’s top biopesticide makers

Pam Marrone, CEO and founder of Marrone Bio Innovations, has spent four decades developing biological alternatives to chemical pesticides.

She launched her company out of Davis, California, in 2006 and led its IPO on the NASDAQ stock exchange in 2013. Marrone Bio has launched a dozen products marketed primarily to farmers in California, the Pacific Northwest and the Southeast.

Marrone spoke with *Agri-Pulse* recently on the state’s cancellation of chlorpyrifos and potentially more pesticide products, on policy barriers to the European market and on the next promising science on the horizon.

Keith Pitts, Marrone Bio’s lead on regulatory affairs, joined the conversation.

The conversation has been edited for brevity.

- 1. What is your perspective on California’s legislative and regulatory environment for biologicals?**



Pam Marrone

Pitts: We've had a good working relationship with DPR (Department of Pesticide Regulations), and I've always found folks to be accessible there. One of our challenges is in recent years the approval process has been very slow.

California is the only state that basically does a review process. It's redundant with U.S. EPA. There are other states that do reviews, like New York and Florida. The longest those tend to go are about eight to nine months for a complete review. You can submit a new technical grade active ingredient or original product with California at the same time you do with EPA. They are supposed to have synchronized reviews. But what we've typically experienced has been even if you put in a concurrent review process, California doesn't move until EPA is completed with its registration process.

Marrone: It's often up to two years (after U.S. EPA).

Pitts: ...The thing that we're all curious about, too, is how this CEQA review process is going to play out and how much of a delay that's going to add. This court case (in December 2018) basically said that how they were doing their reviews wasn't sufficient to meet CEQA requirements...

Marrone: We've had good experience in the past, when they did concurrent reviews with EPA.

Pitts: One thing we don't have in California that you do have with the U.S. EPA is statutory deadlines in which the agency has to complete their registration review process.

Marrone: It can just go on unpredictably, which is very bad. Farmers have fewer tools because the rest of the country has tools way before California does.

2. Has the recent shift in the state away from glyphosate, chlorpyrifos and other pesticide products affected your company's success?

Marrone: We've been asked to be a resource for both CDFA and DPR, to provide information about what are the alternatives when there's actions like (cancelling chlorpyrifos). We put together all the information we had. We have some very good bioinsecticides that are shovel ready and can be chlorpyrifos alternatives...

But we asked that there is a transition for growers, because they don't know about biological alternatives, or how to use them. We were very pleased to see that when they did ban chlorpyrifos, they asked the legislature for money to help farmers with the transition.

Pitts: A lot of the IPM (integrated pest management) systems that have been in use for 30 years were based on older chemistries. When you're asked to talk about alternatives, it's within that framework of an IPM system that has a backbone around organophosphates or carbamates.

What we need to see with the new tools available is how to work with registrants, with growers, with the extension system to build new IPM programs.

Marrone: There needs to be a new look at IPM, and that takes money. I'm on the board of the Foundation for Food and Ag Research and talking to NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) at USDA. There's a lot of funding for IPM. But it's often single-factor and researching one thing, like where the Asian citrus psyllid moves on the plant. But growers want systems integration.

They're faced with all these startup companies coming to them with all ag tech tools, precision farming stuff. At the same time, you've got IPM changing dramatically to newer tools that act in different ways and more biologicals.

There needs to be a shift in thinking both at the land grant system and extension specialists, as well as with USDA.

Pitts: It's just not chemicals anymore. You need to look at all of these information technologies and soil and plant health.

Marrone: Soil health is the basis for all of this. There's a lot of talk about regenerative ag. But you can't just go there immediately. You've got to help farmers transition...

We're working on alternatives to glyphosate. But it's a challenging technical problem. It's still a couple years away from the market.

Pitts: But we've done enough work with it to know it's the first novel mode of action for an herbicide in decades.

Marrone: And it kills five state resistant weeds.

Pitts: The great thing about biologicals is they're readily biodegradable and the challenging thing is they're readily biodegradable.

Marrone: These things are gone in less than a day sometimes.

3. You asked USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue recently about a decline of funding for ag research at land-grant universities. Can you describe that problem?

Marrone: If you look at ag research funding globally over the last decade, the U.S. is losing compared to other countries. China is heavily investing, if you look at the increase in dollars invested.

We have huge problems with obesity and cancer and all these health problems in the U.S. and a lot of that is diet related. Interestingly, NIH (National Institutes of Health) always gets a lot of money. But with USDA, relatively speaking, it's not a lot of ag research money.... Universities



Marrone Bio held its IPO on the NASDAQ stock in 2013.

get hit and that's not good. There needs to be a commitment for significant research funding on a continuous basis.

4. What other trends have you been seeing in California?

Marrone: We are seeing biologicals more and more. What we push is what we call “bio unite.” Too often the mindset is either-or. They should be used together and they make each other better.

With almonds and naval orange worm, growers were not getting the control that they needed with chemicals... By adding (our product) Venerate to some of the lower-risk chemicals, we boosted the control from like 60% up to 90%. That's a 20-to-1 ROI for the grower... And that's because of the synergistic modes of action of biologicals plus chemicals.

Often we get pigeonholed into just being for organic. More than 70% of all biologicals used in California, and in the U.S., are actually used by conventional growers...

We're seeing lots of ag tech incubators and startups. It's a great time to be an entrepreneur in California. I'm coaching a number of them. There's a lot of interesting startups in robotics, precision farming, big data, biologicals, AI.

5. Describe the challenges you are having with the European market.

Pitts: Over the past 25 years, more than 500 new active ingredients have been approved in the U.S. Over that same period of time, Europe has less than 100 actives registered.

Of the handful of biopesticides they have available in Europe, those are pesticides that have been in the U.S. market for over 30 years...

It's basically chemical focused. Every time we go in with a product, regurgitated back to us is all the chemical guideline studies that you have to meet... You take something like a plant extract and once you start getting down to what are the things active in that plant, you end up with having to register five chemicals...

Marrone: The growers are disgusted. They're lobbying heavily...

Pitts: There seems to be admission that the approach they have in place is inadequate.

6. Anything else you would like to add?

Pitts: The important thing for all of us in California is to work together to get as many tools in growers' hands as possible and information about how to use those tools.

Marrone: There's still relatively low awareness of biologicals, despite the fact that this is the state that uses them more than anybody. It's surprising.

I surveyed last year a number of grape and almond growers and it's like 54% have low awareness of biologicals.

Pitts: Looking at climate change, export markets, challenges around labor, we really need to have a good assessment of our future needs and a regulatory process moving hand-in-hand with investment in research.

Marrone: We're working on a new bio fumigate that we're excited about that will be great for California growers. We just did two years of demos and had fabulous results...

Pitts: And we're just scratching the surface on what microbes and fermentation technology can do... We're going to see a lot of research in how you can use those microbes and significantly reduce the amount of fertilizer put out. That's a good story and definitely going to help soil health in general.

State audit reveals 'gross mismanagement' of ag district

A new state auditor's report spells out of "gross mismanagement" of an agricultural district and cites the California Department of Food and Agriculture for not performing biannual compliance audits of the district. The district is not named in the report.

"We found that the association's chief executive officer and maintenance supervisor grossly mismanaged state resources and neglected their duties to ensure that employees comply with state laws governing supervision and time and attendance reporting," noted California State Auditor Elaine Howle.

The report also noted that the California Department of Food and Agriculture "did not perform biannual compliance audits of the association that could have discovered and addressed many of these improper governmental activities."

The State's 54 district agricultural associations are responsible for holding local fairs, expositions, and exhibitions that highlight the industries, enterprises, resources, and products of the state. Each district agricultural association has a nine-member, governor-appointed board that also hires and evaluates a CEO.

The state audit report found the following improprieties from 2016 to 2018:

- \$132,584 of credit card purchases for which the association had no supporting receipts.
- \$130,396 of individual credit card purchases exceeding \$100 for which the CEO did not sign preapproved purchase orders.
- \$30,048 for excessive and illegal out-of-state travel expenses.
- \$14,170 of credit card purchases for which the association did not have itemized receipts to verify that they were for legitimate, business-related expenses.
- \$5,859 for airline tickets that employees purchased on their CAL-Cards, even though state policy prohibits the use of CAL-Cards for travel-related purchases.
- \$5,188 for late fees and interest because the association did not pay its credit card bills on time.
- \$1,986 of wasteful tips that far exceeded the maximum allowable reimbursement rate.
- \$1,259 for inappropriate purchases of alcohol.

Several employees were cited for working at side jobs while employed by the district. In one case, “Employee A used a state vehicle, state-owned materials and equipment, and state time—both his own and that of several other association maintenance employees—to perform at least three side jobs. Several witnesses told us that Employee A and the other employees left work for almost the entire day nearly every day for weeks or even months at a time, depending on the side jobs on which they were working.”

For several years, three employees regularly stored and—after their shifts had ended—drank alcohol at their place of work on state-leased property, in violation of CDFA policy.

“CDFA takes the findings of the state auditor seriously and work is already underway to address many of the recommendations. We also take seriously our responsibility to ensure each district agricultural association (DAA) is aware of its obligation to uphold public trust and is audited accordingly,” said CDFA Director of Public Affairs Steve Lyle. “Recent investments and funding restoration will support CDFA’s compliance auditing efforts and sustain core programs. This includes adding additional auditors, legal support and training for DAA’s.”

CDFA’s audit office has not performed a compliance audit of the district since 2009. A high-level manager in the Fairs and Expositions branch stated that the audit office did not conduct any compliance audits from 2011 through 2017 because CDFA laid off its audit staff due to budget cuts. However, the auditor reviewed the Governor’s budget acts from 2010 through 2019 and determined that the Legislature had, in fact, appropriated funds for this purpose. “Therefore, CDFA must have allocated those funds for other purposes besides compliance audits,” the report noted.

The audit recommends the department take the appropriate disciplinary action against the district association's CEO, maintenance supervisor and other staff who engaged in improper activities and recoup funds from all of the people who misused state resources. In addition, the audit recommends that CDFA’s audit office conducts biannual compliance audits for all district agricultural associations with priority given to auditing DAAs on the watch program.

The full [report is available here](#).

US reaches trade deal with Mexican tomato growers

The U.S. Commerce Department has struck a deal with Mexican tomato producers to allow for trade to continue without tariffs, but under conditions expected to protect U.S. producers from underpriced imports.

The new draft of a suspension agreement sets several reference prices to address U.S. producers’ claims that Mexican exporters have been skirting previous provisions designed to prevent them from dumping their fruit into the U.S. at below-market prices.

“For many years, there have been disputes over the roughly \$2 billion worth of tomatoes that are imported from Mexico annually,” Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement. “These disputes led the Department to terminate an earlier suspension agreement and continue an investigation that could have led to duties of 25 percent for

most Mexican tomato producers ... This draft agreement meets the needs of both sides and avoids the need for antidumping duties.”

The new deal, which will go into effect Sept. 19, represents a compromise on inspections of Mexican tomatoes. Mexican officials like Jesús Seade, Mexico’s top North American negotiator, railed over a previous U.S. proposal for blanket inspections at the border. Beyond snarling traffic at border checkpoints, the U.S. proposal would have invited reprisal inspections of U.S. goods entering Mexico.

But the compromise in the new deal, which “includes a brand-new inspection mechanism to prevent the importation of low-quality, poor-condition tomatoes from Mexico,” is being lauded by Seade and Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Martha Bárcena.

“The Tomato Suspension Agreement is achieved !!!” Seade said in a tweet Wednesday. “Congratulations, producers, recognizing your infinite determination to reach an agreement in this important sector of Mexico-US trade.”

The deal that prevents any new tariffs is a major win for Mexico. About 95% of all the tomatoes the country exports are sold to U.S. consumers.

EPA considering 10 hemp pesticides

The Environmental Protection Agency will consider adding industrial hemp to the allowable uses for 10 pesticide active ingredients, the agency announced Wednesday.

A major concern among farmers interested in growing the crop, which was legalized in the 2018 farm bill, has been a dearth of crop protection products. There are currently no pesticides registered by EPA specifically for use on cannabis.

EPA released a prepublication version of the Federal Register notice to be published in the coming days. The public will have 30 days to comment when it hits the Federal Register.

All of the products being considered for use on hemp “contain active ingredients for which EPA previously determined the residues will be safe under any reasonably foreseeable circumstances,” the Federal Register notice says. The agency has “established tolerance exemptions, as indicated below, for those residues in or on all raw agricultural or food commodities.”

“We hope this transparent and public process will bring hemp farmers and researchers increased regulatory clarity in time for next growing season — something they have asked for since the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill and the legalization of commercial hemp,” EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in an EPA news release.

EPA announced the action at the Hemp Production Field Day at the University of Kentucky.

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and University of Kentucky hemp researcher Bob Pearce praised EPA’s action, with Pearce calling it “a welcome first step on the path to registration of safe and effective crop protection agents for a rapidly expanding hemp enterprise.”

At 15,000 acres planted this year, Kentucky ranks third among the states in planted acreage of hemp. The leader, with 39,000 acres, is Montana, followed by Colorado with 19,000 acres.

“Once public comments are received, EPA anticipates deciding about the possible use of the specified products on hemp before the end of 2019 to help growers make informed purchasing

choices for the upcoming growing season,” EPA said. “Moving forward, EPA will review, approve or deny applications for use on hemp as the agency would for any other use site.”

EPA said in the notice that "for future pesticide registration applications that are similar to these applications and that are expected to be submitted with more regularity, EPA is not planning to notify the public of their receipt."

The active ingredients under consideration include a few examples of the same products mixed together at different levels. All ingredients are biopesticides except for Potassium Salts of Fatty Acids, are:

- Azadirachtin and Neem Oil, Agro Logistic Systems. Insecticide, Miticide, Fungicide, and Nematicide.
- Azadirachtin and Neem Oil, Agro Logistic Systems. Insecticide, Miticide, Fungicide, and Nematicide.
- Azadirachtin and Neem Oil, Agro Logistic Systems. Insecticide, Miticide, Fungicide, and Nematicide.
- Neem Oil, Agro Logistic Systems. Insecticide, Miticide, and Fungicide.
- Extract of *Reynoutria sachalinensis*, Marrone Bio Innovations. Fungicide and Fungistat.
- *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain F727, Marrone Bio Innovations. Fungicide.
- Soybean Oil, Garlic Oil, and Capsicum Oleoresin Extract, Hawthorne Hydroponics. Insecticide and Repellent.
- Potassium Salts of Fatty Acids, Hawthorne Hydroponics. Insecticide, Fungicide, and Miticide.
- *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain D747, Hawthorne Hydroponics. Fungicide and Bactericide.
- Azadirachtin, Hawthorne Hydroponics. Insect Growth Regulator and Repellent.

California farm real estate values climb to highest in the nation

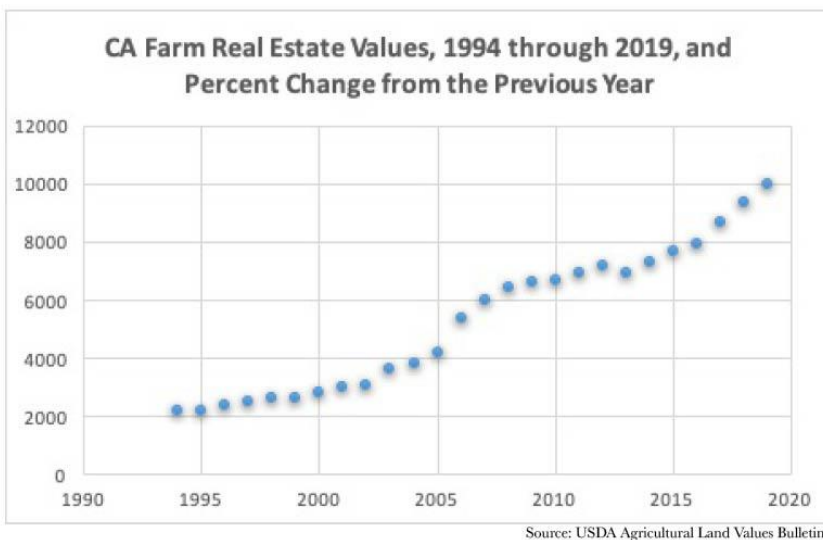
Farm real estate values in California are roughly three times the national average after continuing a long-established upswing.

According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, the 2019 national average price of farm real estate - a measure of all land and buildings on farms - averaged \$3,160 per acre, an increase of 1.9%. In California, that average price shot up 7% to \$10,000, the biggest percentage increase in the nation. California's average price is behind only Massachusetts (\$11,100), Connecticut (\$12,200), New Jersey (\$13,500), and Rhode Island (\$15,600) as the fifth highest value in the nation.

Since 1994, ag land values within the state have risen nearly 80%. During that same time period, California's 77.8% increase has been a couple percent points higher than the nationwide 75.25% increase.

In the last 25 years, a steady increase in California farm real estate value has occurred. Only one year showed a decline: 2013's 4.35% drop in values took the average land value down to \$6,900. That year, California was in the midst of a major drought that would later be declared a state of emergency in January 2014.

Across a variety of categories, California's value holds about two or three times higher than the national average. Land classified in cropland nationwide is valued at an average of \$4,100 per acre. In California, that figure shoots up to \$12,830. Pastureland tells a similar story, as the average nationwide price of \$1,400 is just under half of California's average of \$3,010 per acre.



California's size and product mix leads to a substantial agricultural footprint, accounting for over 13% of the nation's total agricultural value according to 2017 numbers provided by the [California Department of Food and Agriculture](#).

Farm Hands:

David Marguleas is joining Sun World International as its new CEO. Marguleas succeeds **Merrill Dibble** who has left the company to begin a new role overseeing the agricultural operations at Renewable Resources Group. Three months ago, Sun World announced that it will be stepping away from the production side of the business to focus on Sun World Innovations, the breeding, genetics and licensing business. Marguleas previously served as a vice president at Sun World International and was the head of Sun World Innovations. **Jeff Jackson** also joins the team as the new executive vice president of business development. In previous experience, he has held roles with Chiquita Brands International, Earthbound Farm and Tanimura & Antle.

Tanimura & Antle, Salinas Valley grower and shipper of organic and conventional produce, has hired **Don Klusendorf** as executive vice president of sales and marketing. Previously, Klusendorf served as vice president of sales and marketing at Bonipak Produce, where he worked since 2008.

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation announced the individuals named to the Chlorpyrifos Alternatives Work Group. The individuals are as follows: **Facilitator: Joseph McIntyre**, Ag Innovations; **Work Group Members: Cliff Ohmart**, Ohmart Consulting; **Dave Lawson**, Western Plant Health Association; **David Havigland**, Farm Advisor; **Doug Devaney**, JG Boswell; **Gabriele Ludwig**, Almond Board; **Jim Cranney**, California Citrus Quality Council; **Kim Harley**, UC Berkeley; **Lisa Herbert**, Ag Commissioner; **Margaret Reeves**, PANNA; **Michael Rethwisch**, UCANR; **Nayamin Martinez**, Central California Environmental Justice Network; **Nick Frey**, Retired, Sonoma County Winegrowers; **Pam Marrone**, Marrone

Bio Innovations; **Paul Squires**, Independent PCA; **Pete Goodell**, Retired UCCE Statewide Cotton IPM Advisor; **Robert Harrison**, UCSF; **Sara Savary**, Independent PCA; **Suguet Lopez**, Lideres Campesinas; **Work Group Advisors: Jesse Cuevas/Karen Morrison**, DPR; John Stegall, OPCA CDFa; and **Julie Henderson**, CalEPA.

Howard Nager has joined Progressive Produce as its new vice president of business development and marketing. Nager brings over 36 years of produce industry experience, most recently serving as the vice president of business development for Sun Pacific. His previous experience includes serving as vice president of marketing for Yakima, and vice president of sales and marketing for Maui Pineapple Company. He has also worked for Sunsweet Growers, Pacific Fruit, Del Monte Fresh Produce and Dole Fresh Fruit Co.

Edward Mora is the new senior district representative and community liaison for Rep. **Eric Swalwell**, D-Calif. Mora served in Swalwell's office since 2014 and previously worked as a constituent services representative.



Ken Martin

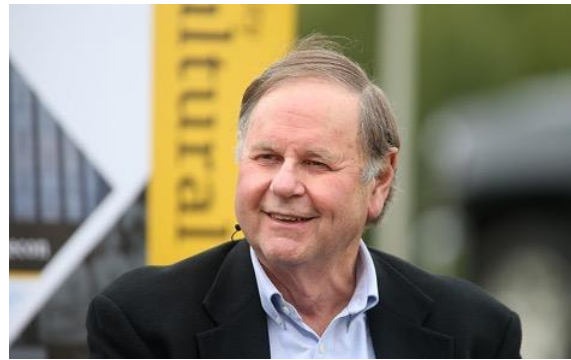
Gabriela Cid left the office of Rep. **Nanette Diaz Barragán**, D-Calif., where she served as a field representative since March 2017. She has taken a new role on **Elizabeth Warren's** presidential campaign as the Spanish content manager.

Ken Martin, a Missouri native and former president at Rio Queen Citrus, died at the age 77. Martin grew up on a dairy farm in southwest Missouri, and attended Southwest Baptist College and Dallas Mortuary College to become a funeral director. He met his wife **Sue Ware** in Fulton, Mo., and they moved to the Rio Grande Valley in 1970 to help her father, **James Ware**, manage citrus orchards and run the family business, Warehouse Farms. Ware sold his interest in the company in 1987. The company name changed to Rio Queen Citrus Inc. in 1998, when Warehouse Farms and Elmore & Stahl, an onion and melon company, merged. Martin became the president of Rio Queen.

The Martin family exited the Texas citrus industry in 2012, when it sold to Paramount Citrus, and later renamed to Wonderful Citrus. In 2014, the Martin family bought a Napa vineyard, naming it Italics Winegrowers.

Wallace Tyner, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, passed away August 17 after a brief illness. Tyner joined the Purdue faculty in 1977 after earning his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Texas Christian University and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Maryland. From 1989 to 2002, Tyner served as head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue. During his 42-year tenure at Purdue, Tyner earned a global reputation for his extensive research in the areas of energy, agriculture, climate and natural

resource policy analysis. “Wally was a wise and trusted advisor to policymakers, businesses leaders, generations of students, and, of course, his friends and colleagues. Our department would not be where it is today without his foresight, passion and servant leadership,” said **Jayson Lusk**, the current department head of agricultural economics. The family has designated the Dr. Wallace Tyner Scholarship in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University’s College of Agriculture for memorial contributions. Please make donations online [here](#) or make donations payable to the Purdue Foundation and mail to Purdue Foundation, 403 W. Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907.



Wallace Tyner

Best regards,
Sara Wyant
Editor

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