



## INSIDE



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## Vote no on Prop 15, a travesty for California farmers

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director

By the time you read this, you will have likely heard about Proposition 15, which California voters will consider this November. The bill's proponents claim it will protect California's residents, farmers and small businesses; this is simply incorrect. The state's Legislative Analyst's Office and the California Assessor's Association, two nonpartisan organizations, agree that Prop 15 will increase taxes. Those increases are estimated to cost California taxpayers \$11 billion each year.

While agricultural lands have been exempted from the increase, the exemptions failed to include "fixtures and improvements," meaning trees and vines will be taxed four years after planting. Barns and buildings will be taxed along with irrigation systems and other on-farm facilities. And it does not stop there, additionally taxing processing equipment, transportation and equipment dealers.



KCFB President Brian Medeiros (left) and Vice President Kevin Robertson contributing to Farm Bureau's efforts to encourage Californians to vote no on Prop 15.

At every step along the way, the food you eat is subject to taxation, not just costing the farmer and processor, but the consumer as well.

Let's set aside the travesty Prop 15 is for California's food supply chain and consider the implications to the rest of the economy.

California has set the lofty goal of creating 100 percent "green power" for the state, and solar energy plays a huge role in that process. Insert Prop 15 and all active solar energy systems selling power to the utilities are taxed. Add this tax to higher generation and transmission fees charged by utilities, and solar is no longer an appealing option for property owners.

Small local businesses are among the highest risk group should Prop 15 pass.

*"Prop 15" cont'd on page 5*

## Forecasters predict another winter of below-average rainfall

By Amy D. Fienen

In a year that has seemingly been plagued by one disaster after another, it's only fair that Mother Nature would grace the Valley with a wet winter, but forecasters are unanimous in their predictions that it's not to be. It appears we could be in for a second consecutive year of below-average precipitation.

Both the Farmer's Almanac and Old Farmer's Almanac have released their 2020-21 winter weather predictions and are in agreement that the entire country is looking at a mild winter. They are expecting a cool and dry forecast for the west, but what's most concerning is their use of the word "drought" as dry conditions were already ramping up at the close of last winter.

While there is a lot of speculation about the almanacs' reliability, they were accurate in their predictions for a dry California winter last year. Both almanacs use secret formulas that rely on solar cycles, climatology and meteorology.

As we do at this time every year, we went to our



The Old Farmer's Almanac is predicting a dry and cool winter for the Valley, while models from the National Weather Service in Hanford show winter will be dry and warmer than average. Courtesy of the Old Farmer's Almanac

local expert, meteorologist Brian Ochs with the National Weather Service in Hanford, for a regional winter forecast. For better or worse, his forecasts have proven to be quite reliable in recent years, and the bad news is that he's in agreement with the almanacs when looking at models for the upcoming winter.

*"Rainfall" cont'd on page 2*

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"Rainfall" cont'd from page 1

"I don't have much good news for those hoping for a wet winter," Ochs said. "There's a 60 percent probability that it will be dry from October through April."

Ochs said the region is looking at two possible scenarios. The first is a repeat of last winter, in which Hanford saw 6.62 inches of rainfall from late November until April – a number that's below average by more than two inches. Hanford typically averages two inches per month between December and March.

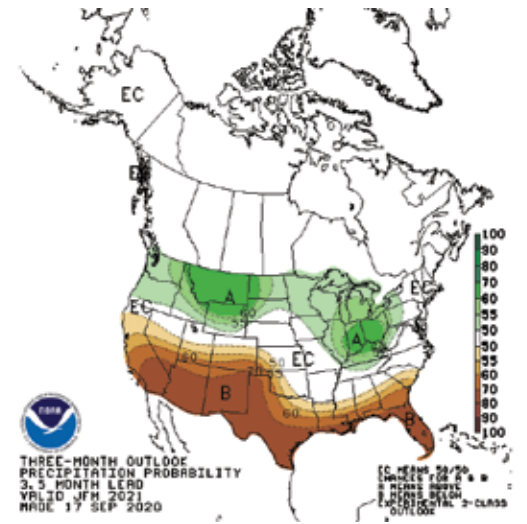
The second scenario is that we could see even less rainfall than we did less winter.

This second scenario is based on the La Nina system that's expected to affect California's weather this winter. La Nina years typically result in warmer and drier conditions, and while Ochs said this particular La Nina is expected to be weak to moderate, local models are showing it will still have an impact.

In contradiction to the almanacs' predictions for cool weather, Ochs believes we'll see above average temperatures this winter. The wildcard in that situation could be the appearance of fog, but he said the Valley has seen a decrease in frequency and density of fog over the past five years.

Models show a below average chance for precipitation in October, and Ochs predicts that if some rain does decide to make a much-needed appearance, it won't be until around Thanksgiving.

That would definitely be something to be thankful for. 🍂



This map from the NOAA reflects that from January through March 2021, the Central Valley is looking at below-average precipitation. The February through April outlook is very similar.

## Farm Bureau releases November ballot measures voter's guide

Reiterating its strong opposition to a ballot initiative that would establish a split-roll property tax, the California Farm Bureau Federation has announced positions on the other statewide measures to be decided this fall and released a Voter Guide for the Nov. 3 general election.

Farm Bureau was among the first organizations to oppose Proposition 15, which would create a split-roll property tax to reassess and raise taxes on commercial and industrial property. Although its proponents claim agriculture would be exempt, the measure would allow reassessment of agricultural facilities and improvements such as barns, dairies, orchards, vineyards and processing plants.

"In the middle of a pandemic that has severely disrupted our food-production system, Proposition 15 would

impose a new tax burden on family farms and ranches," CFBF President Jamie Johansson said. "Ultimately, those higher costs to the food system would lead to higher food prices. Make no mistake: A tax on farms is a tax on everyone."

Among its other ballot positions, Farm Bureau emphasized public safety by supporting Proposition 20, which would increase penalties for certain theft-related crimes, and opposing Proposition 25, which would abolish the state's cash-bail system.

"Theft, vandalism, trespassing and other crimes remain chronic and growing problems in rural California," Johansson said. "By passing Proposition 20 and rejecting Proposition 25, voters have an opportunity to reinforce protection for rural and urban communities alike." 🍂

**CFBF Voter Guide**  
2020 General Election • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Prop. 14—Stem Cell Research Bonds .....	Neutral
Prop. 15—Split-Roll Property Tax.....	NO
Prop. 16—Affirmative Action.....	Neutral
Prop. 17—Voting by Paroled Felons.....	NO
Prop. 18—Voting Age.....	NO
Prop. 19—Taxes on Homes, Inherited Property.....	Neutral
Prop. 20—Criminal Penalties.....	YES
Prop. 21—Rent Control.....	NO
Prop. 22—App-Based Drivers.....	YES
Prop. 23—Kidney Dialysis Clinics.....	Neutral
Prop. 24—Consumer Privacy.....	Neutral
Prop. 25—Cash Bail.....	NO



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## KCFB WORKING FOR YOU

### First Virtual Showcase attracts large online crowd



**Kings County Farm Bureau's first Virtual Showcase was a huge success.** As part of our efforts to help promote our Friends of Farm Bureau sponsors, we partnered with Excellence Medical Group in Hanford to showcase the services their practice offers. We had more than 300 people RSVP to the event, and those who logged in had the opportunity to win \$3,000 worth of prizes and services. Pictured is KCFB Executive Director Dusty Ference preparing the script for the Virtual Showcase. 🙌

## Meet the local candidates running in the Nov. 3 election

As part of our commitment to engaging in the political process, Kings County Farm Bureau has provided local candidates running for office in the Nov. 3 election the opportunity to share their message with our members.

Candidates for the 21st Congressional District are incumbent TJ Cox (D) and David Valadao (R).

Candidates for the 32nd Assembly District are incumbent Rudy Salas (D) and Todd Cotta (R).

All four candidates were contacted with the free opportunity to provide a 250-word statement to "Farm Life" on their candidacy and how they plan to serve their district and the local ag industry if elected. The following candidates provided the requested information prior to our publication deadline.



**Todd Cota (R)**  
Candidate for 32nd Assembly District

I love California, but am saddened to see what it has become.

Poverty and homelessness are rampant due to our legislature's inability to pass and enforce laws that protect good, law-abiding citizens. We can and must do better.

I have the ability, knowledge and skill to stand firm against higher regulation, higher taxes and the destruction of our natural rights.

Public safety will be my top priority. I spent 20 years as a deputy sheriff working to keep criminals behind bars and our community safe.

I've served as a director on the Laguna Irrigation District for 12 years. I know what it takes to make government efficiently and effectively serve the people.

Born in Hanford, I am Valley born and Valley proud, coming from generations of farming. My grandfather owned a dairy, my father managed a cotton gin, and I worked in agriculture for over 40 years. I'll fight in Sacramento to preserve our agricultural heritage.

Finally, I have operated my retail company in Hanford for eight years. I have had to deal with increased regulation, taxes and managing the staff. This knowledge is vital to knowing the heartbeat of small business in California.

A vote for me, Todd Cotta, is a vote to begin the long road back to restoring our place as the greatest state in the nation.

Our motto is "Believe in a better California, because together we can save our state."



**David Valadao (R)**  
Candidate for 21st Congressional District

California's diverse agricultural economy provides food for the world, producing nearly \$45 billion in agricultural products annually, and our

"Local Candidates" cont'd on page 9

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## Kings County Rural Crime Report

### Unit investigates thefts locally and in neighboring counties

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Rod Shulman

The Kings County Rural Crime Task Force stayed busy assisting other agencies with several investigations last month. Following a commercial theft in the City of Hanford, our unit assisted Hanford PD with recovery of blood for DNA comparison to identify suspects.

We were also called by the Tulare County Rural Crime Unit to assist them with a commodity theft. In this case, three suspects were taken into custody after we served search warrants in the City of Clovis.

When our unit wasn't assisting other agencies with their investigations, we were helping Madera County with the Creek Fire. Members of our unit spent between one and five days patrolling for looters and maintaining road closures.

We took several reports from Taylor Farms regarding hemp theft. We have video surveillance of a suspect vehicle and are conducting follow-up to identify and locate the suspect in this investigation.

We responded to two separate reports of tire thefts. Brian Medeiros had four tires stolen off a mobile CAT generator in the area of 14th and Jackson. The same day, JG Boswell called us about eight tires that were stolen off a shade trailer and outhouses. To date, we have no suspects identified in either of these investigations.

We also received a call from Tulare Lake Basin personnel regarding trespassers. We located three male subjects about six miles south of Utica and 10th Avenue. They had three vehicles at this location and it appears they wanted to utilize the secluded area to strip stolen cars. The subjects reside in the Delano area and one was arrested for possession of methamphetamine. All three cars were towed and the suspects had a long walk back to Delano.

Our unit is currently investigating the theft of a Kubota RTV stolen from the area of 16th and Medford avenues. This ATV has been marked with Smart-Water CSI. We hope to recover it and see if this new technology will assist in identifying a suspect and/or the Kubota itself.



We continue to locate illegal marijuana grows in the county. Detective Holt recently completed three search warrants for locations where our unit will conduct eradication operations.

I want to remind all of you to please give us a call if you see any suspicious activity or vehicles. Please also remember that we are available to stamp your equipment with an Owner Applied Number (OAN). Just give one of our detectives or myself a call and we will schedule a time. As always, I appreciate your support during these trying times. 🙏

**Task Force Sergeant Rod Shulman: 559-469-4004**

**Detective Carlos Santos: 559-904-6893**

**Detective Ben Moore: 559-589-3629**

**Detective Kody Holt: 559-369-8928**

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“Prop 15” cont’d from page 1

Many small businesses rent the space in which they operate, and leases often require tenants to pay property taxes on the building they occupy. Prop 15 will drive their cost of doing business even higher when the state and federal governments are attempting to offer rent relief to companies renting space. So, if Prop 15 passes, small businesses will have higher costs, more need for relief funding, and face a significant chance of layoffs and closures, all while leaving the consumer higher prices and fewer options.

If this wasn't enough, the impacts on local governments are tremendous. Estimations conclude that 900 new assessors will be required across the state to handle reassessment of all properties affected by the proposition, an estimated expense of \$1 billion in the first three years of implementation. These assessors would be county staff. And while 900 new jobs may sound appealing, county budgets are already suffering, and Prop 15 does not guarantee local agencies will receive any additional funding as it claims.

While it claims to fund local schools, Prop 15 prioritizes schools third in line behind bureaucrats and local jurisdictions. And like the state and local governments, any funds received from Prop 15 are considered general funds and can be used for anything approved by the governing body. With no specific projects or needs tied to the funds, taxpayers will have no say in how their money is spent.

The private industry understands that higher taxes result in slow economic growth. Slow growth means fewer jobs and a higher cost of living. Proposition 15 is a tax on life's fundamentals. Do not approve a proposition adding to the tax bill in California. We live in the best state in the nation; let's keep it that way by voting no on Proposition 15 this November. 🐾

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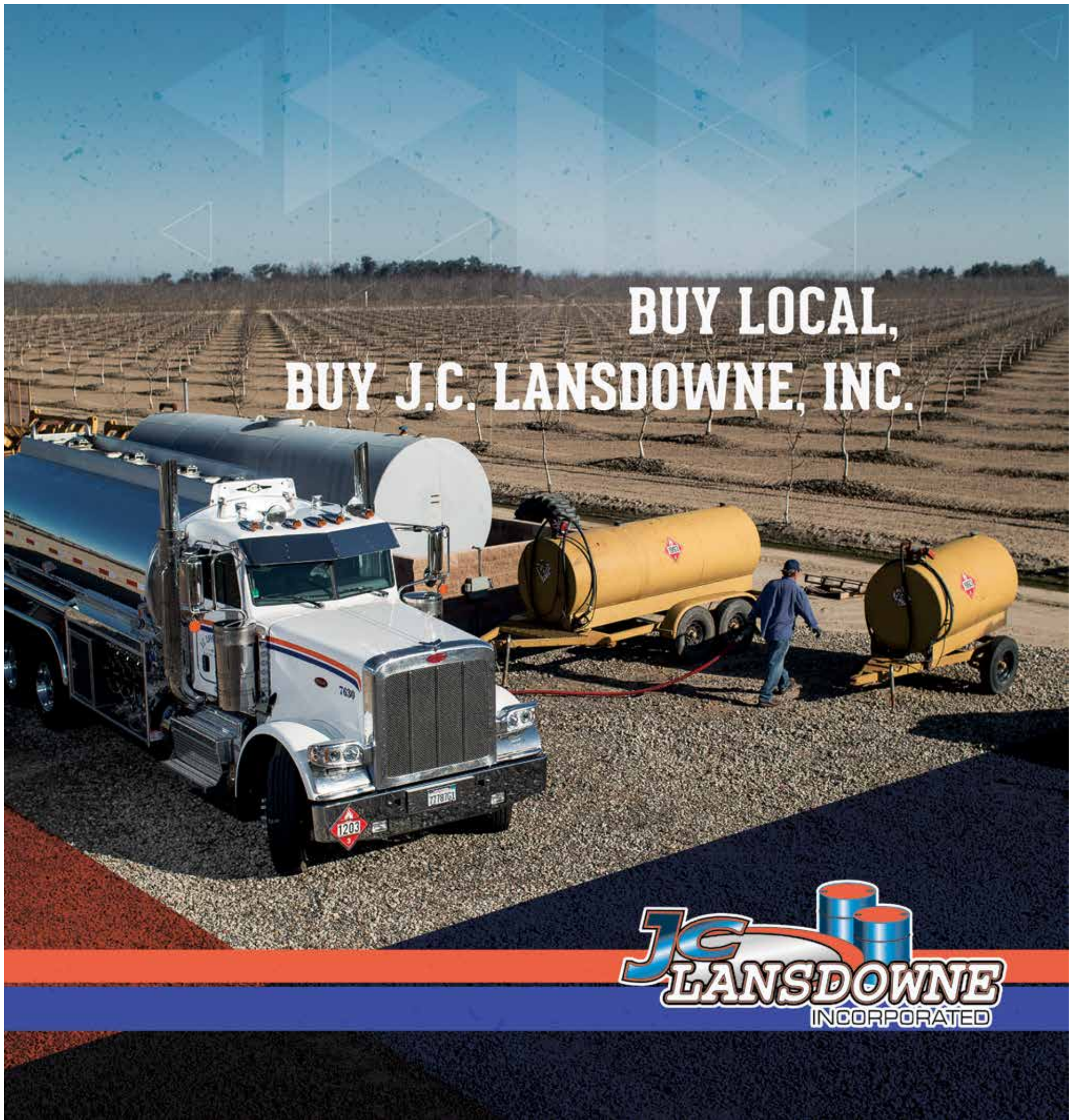
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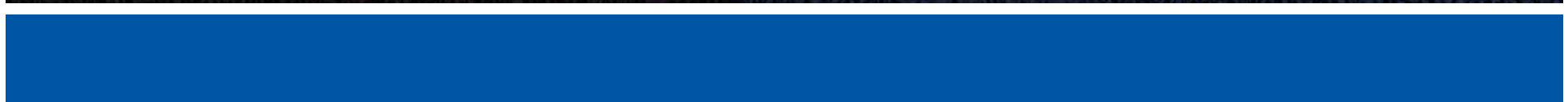
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Jimmy Hook,  
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**Kings County's Walnut Theft Ordinance:  
Sharing the responsibility to help deter theft**

Contributed by Steve Schweizer, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer

Fall is in the air, and with it comes the walnut harvest season. Every year, thousands of acres are harvested in Kings County, as well as the surrounding counties. As has been the case for years, walnut theft continues to be a concern in the industry. Kings County, with input from the walnut industry, adopted the Walnut Theft Ordinance in 2013 to help combat the issue of illegal transporting and sales of walnuts in the county. The ordinance, as well as current state law, puts responsibilities on helping to prevent theft on all parties involved in the process, including growers, buyers and gleaners.

State law requires that anyone transporting 25 pounds or more of any fruits, nuts or vegetables for commercial purposes must possess proof of ownership for each lot. With respect to walnuts, growers transporting their crop for drying/hulling are exempt from this requirement, but they are not exempt from completing the Kings County Proof of Ownership Certificate (Certificate) for gleaners. Gleaners are those individuals with permission to remove any remaining walnuts in the field after the grower's harvest. Gleaners may be relatives, friends, employees, or anyone else the grower allows to remove nuts from the field. Lawful gleaning not only provides income for individuals and families, but helps clear the orchard of leftover nuts that could host pests of the crop. In order for these gleaners to sell the nuts they gather, they must present the Certificate to a local buyer. The buyer maintains a copy of the Certificate for their records, where it is used to document how much of the product is purchased from each gleaner. Additional information required on the Certificate include source of the walnuts, variety(s), vehicle license number, as well as the vehicle make, model and color. Growers or homeowners also need to complete the Certificate prior to selling their walnuts to these local buyers. Blank Certificates are available for growers to pick up at our office. Our Department is asked every year about the local buyers of walnuts, including when they can start purchasing walnuts. The Ordinance allows walnut processors licensed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), or their agents, to purchase walnuts anytime. Non-licensed buyers are required to wait until the end of the Chandler harvest before they can begin buying. Both types of buyers must register with our Department annually. Since the Ordinance was enacted back in 2013, only CDFA-licensed walnut buyers have been registered in Kings County. Agricultural and Standards Inspectors review the sales records of the buyers and follow-up on the information provided, including making contact with growers to confirm that the gleaner's information is correct, as well as inspecting locations with only a few trees to verify small growers. Failure to comply with California law, as well as the Kings County Walnut Ordinance pertaining to the transportation and sale of walnuts, may result in the confiscation of the product and/or fines of up to \$1,000 for each violation, depending on the severity. Suspect information is also passed on to the Kings County Rural Crimes unit. For additional information, please feel free to contact the Kings County Department of Agriculture at (559) 852-2830 or email us at [agstaff@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:agstaff@co.kings.ca.us)



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“Local Candidates” cont’d from page 3

Central Valley farmers drive our well-deserved reputation as America’s breadbasket.

As a dairy farmer, I understand the unique obstacles the agriculture industry faces, including burdensome regulations, environmental conditions, and federal agriculture programs. The negative impacts of over regulation are especially pronounced when bureaucrats in Washington who create these regulations lack a comprehensive understanding of the realities faced by everyday business owners.

As the nation’s largest dairy district, our representatives must make the voices of our dairy producers heard in Washington. While in Congress, I introduced the California Federal Milk Marketing Order Act to allow producers in California to petition to join the federal order and enter a more level playing field for their milk prices.

Likewise, water is crucial for our farmers and delivering more water to the Valley has always been among my top priorities.

One of my proudest achievements was working with a bipartisan group in Congress to pass the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act). Signed into the law in 2016, the California water provisions included in the WIIN Act continue to allow for the development of new water infrastructure, provide funding for storage and groundwater projects, and improve operations on the Central Valley Project.

I am proud that my actions in Congress are having a lasting impact on water deliveries for the Central Valley, and I’m ready to get back to work for our farmers. 🌾

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Bank of the West	559-802-4066
Central Valley Community Bank	559-323-3493
Citizens Business Bank	866-578-0658
<b>Farm Credit West</b>	<b>559-584-2681</b>
<b>Golden State Farm Credit</b>	<b>559-584-5401</b>
<b>Rabobank</b>	<b>559-587-0218</b>

## BROKERS & COMMODITIES

Baker Commodities Inc.	559-582-0271
Buttonwillow Warehouse Co.	559-992-5120
Calcot Ltd.	661-327-5961
Overland Stockyards	559-582-0404
Penny Newman Grain Company	559-448-8800
<b>Tulare Lake Compost</b>	<b>559-840-4368</b>

## CHEMICALS & APPLICATORS

Blair Air Services Inc./	
Blair Ground Services	559-924-1276
Crop Production Services	559-584-5583
Diversified Crop Services	559-582-5644
Gar Bennett LLC	559-638-6311
<b>Innovative Ag Services LLC</b>	<b>559-731-4924</b>
Lakeland Dusters	559-992-5716
SNF Agriculture	559-309-4301
TriCal Inc.	559-673-5237
<b>Valley Ag Spraying</b>	<b>559-772-5515</b>
<b>Verdegaal Brothers Inc.</b>	<b>559-582-9205</b>

## CUSTOM SERVICES

All Valley Printing/	
Treefrog Print Shop	559-584-5444
<b>Danell Brothers Inc.</b>	<b>559-582-1251</b>
Dias & Fragoso Inc.	559-584-8036
Garcia & Sons Hay Harvesting	559-707-4420
Hanford Roofing Company	559-582-5607
McCann & Sons Hay Service	559-925-9110
<b>Mello Chipping</b>	<b>559-589-0300</b>
Netto Ag Inc.	559-585-2097
Stoney's Sand & Gravel	559-924-9229
Swinger Pruning Services	559-816-7711
Warmerdam Orchard Services	559-924-4662

## DAIRIES/DAIRY SUPPLIERS

<b>Kings Dairy Supply Inc.</b>	<b>559-582-9459</b>
<b>Summerhill Dairy</b>	<b>559-468-6554</b>
Vet Pharmaceutical Inc.	559-582-6800

## EQUIPMENT DEALERS & REPAIR

<b>Hanford Equipment</b>	<b>559-582-0443</b>
Lawrence Tractor Co.	559-582-9002
Linder Equipment Co.	559-685-5000
<b>Quality Machinery Center</b>	<b>559-707-1638</b>
Quinn Company	559-992-2193

## FARM SUPPLY

AgSeeds Unlimited	559-923-1800
Evangelho Seed Co.	559-324-9554
West Valley Supply	559-924-3442

## FARMS & RANCHES

Gary Robinson	559-779-5541
Grabow Farming	559-816-4590
<b>J.G. Boswell Co.</b>	<b>559-992-5011</b>
<b>Keenan Farms</b>	<b>559-945-1400</b>
Miya Farms	559-309-3300
<b>Stone Land Co.</b>	<b>559-945-2205</b>
<b>Sullivan Farming LLC</b>	<b>559-289-2452</b>
<b>Summerhill Dairy</b>	<b>559-804-8148</b>
Taylor Farms	559-584-3798

## FOOD SERVICES

Avila Acres Country Gourmet	559-584-5935
Eddie's Catering	559-707-8796
Kings River Produce	559-587-9387
Pizza Factory	559-992-3148
Superior Dairy	559-582-0481

## INSURANCE SERVICES

<b>Bacome Insurance</b>	<b>559-584-3323</b>
Carl Nelson Insurance	559-584-4495
Der Manouel Insurance Group	559-447-4600
Golden State Crop & Insurance Services	559-587-9007
<b>Mackey &amp; Mackey Insurance Agency</b>	<b>559-583-9393</b>
Mitchell Insurance Services	559-713-1315
<b>Pacific Ag Insurance Agency</b>	<b>559-584-3391</b>
<b>The Zenith</b>	<b>877-581-8237</b>

## IRRIGATION/PUMPS/WELLS

Carver Pump	855-622-7837
Grabow Well Drilling Inc.	559-362-5172
Kaweah Pump Inc.	559-747-0755
Kings County Water District	559-584-6412
<b>Laguna Irrigation District</b>	<b>559-923-4239</b>
Lakeside Irrigation Water District	559-584-3396
Myers Brothers Well Drilling Inc.	559-582-9031
Myers Well Drilling	559-906-0930
<b>Rain for Rent/Westside Pump</b>	<b>559-693-4315</b>
Westlands Water District	559-905-6736

## LABOR

Sunrise Farm Labor	559-945-2292
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## MANUFACTURES

Dean Beck's Machine Shop	559-582-4144
Jim Harp's Stainless Steel Welding	559-582-6011
<b>Morgan &amp; Slates Manufacturing &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>559-582-4417</b>
R-N-R Welding	559-584-0213
Sawtelle & Rosprim Machine Co.	559-992-2117
Smith Welding Shop	559-584-8652

## PETROLEUM

Buford Oil Co. Inc.	559-582-9028
Dassel's Petroleum	559-582-8515
Gary V. Burrows Inc.	559-924-2064
<b>J.C. Lansdowne Inc.</b>	<b>559-651-1760</b>
Roe Oil Co.	559-584-5690
Valley Pacific Petroleum	559-732-8381

## PROCESSORS

County Line Gin Inc.	559-854-7489
<b>Keenan Farms</b>	<b>559-945-1400</b>
<b>Marquez Brothers International, Inc.</b>	<b>559-584-8000</b>
<b>Olam SVI</b>	<b>559-584-2711</b>
Warmerdam Packing LP	559-584-9211

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

<b>Dias Law Firm Inc.</b>	<b>559-585-7330</b>
<b>Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd &amp; Gin LLP</b>	<b>559-584-6656</b>
<b>Kahn, Soares &amp; Conway LLP</b>	<b>559-584-3337</b>
Kings County EDC	559-585-3576
Zumwalt-Hansen & Associates Inc.	559-582-1056

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES

<b>Pearson Realty</b>	<b>559-732-7300</b>
Sierra View Realty	559-410-5557

## SOLAR ENERGY

CalCom Solar	661-234-0978
<b>Coldwell Solar</b>	<b>888-705-5055</b>
<b>First Solar</b>	<b>415-935-2507</b>
REC Solar	717-515-4519
<b>Recurrent Energy</b>	<b>415-675-1500</b>
<b>Renewable Solar</b>	<b>559-816-5088</b>

## TRANSPORTATION

E & B Bulk Transportation	559-582-9135
Mesa Alta Transportation	559-250-1270
Mid Valley Disposal	559-237-9425

## UTILITIES

<b>Pacific Gas &amp; Electric</b>	<b>559-263-5308</b>
unWired Broadband	844-650-3278

# FRIENDS *of* FARM BUREAU

## DIAMOND



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is on your side



## Platinum



## Gold

All Valley Printing  
Bacome Insurance Agency  
Dias Law Firm Inc.  
Gar Bennett LLC

J.C. Lansdowne Inc.  
M Green & Company LLP  
Pacific Gas & Electric  
Renewable Solar

Stone Land Co.  
Tachi Palace Casino Resort  
The Wonderful Company  
Verdegaal Brothers

## Silver

Coldwell Solar Inc.  
Danell Custom Harvesting  
Excellence Medical Group  
Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin LLP  
Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC  
J.G. Boswell Company Inc.  
JKB Energy Inc.

Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP  
Mello Chipping  
Morgan & Slaters Manufacturing & Supplies  
Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients  
Pacific Ag Insurance  
Quality Machinery Center  
Rain for Rent

Southern California Edison  
Summerhill Dairy  
S&W Seed Company  
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District  
Wells Fargo Bank

## Bronze

Agland Protective Services  
Billingsley Tire Inc.  
Bressler & Company Certified Public Accountants  
CalWest Rain  
Central Valley Energy Coalition  
Garton Tractor

Granger Water Specialties  
Grower Direct Nut Company  
Hanford Equipment Co.  
Innovative Ag Services LLC  
JP Honey Farms  
Keenan Farms  
Keller Motors

Kings Dairy Supply Inc.  
Laguna Irrigation District  
Mello Chipping  
Plain Insane Graphix  
Pearson Realty Inc.  
Rabobank  
Richard's Chevrolet

Schuil & Associates  
Sullivan Farming LLC  
Tulare Lake Compost  
Valley Ag Spraying  
Wilbur Ellis Inc.

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