

COMPASS

ISSUE 3 | MAY 2023



READY SET ADVOCATE

By: CWA State President, Sharron Zoller



May's Sacramento SWM is fast approaching! Our task will be to forge or perhaps rekindle connections with legislators who most probably are not well-versed or closely connected with AG. In order to put ourselves ahead of competing priorities deluging legislators and regulators and cut through the avalanche of distractions and preoccupations, we need to be well-educated on the bills and current topics, but first, we need to connect on a personal level. You might open with "What are the focus areas for you this year?" which should give insight into their priorities. Or, "Did you know that drone technology has a growing role in climate-smart agriculture?" Follow up with a couple of applications: pest control, plant health monitoring, livestock management, soil analysis, or aerial survey.

In the March 2022 COMPASS my theme was, "It's all about the story – everyone has one!" Once you get them thinking about AG you can tell your personal story, build that personal connection and work up to the CWA legislative "ASKS."

Take advantage of any conversational opportunities to drop in some "cool" or "startling" AG FACTS. You can choose from these "Ag in Your Pocket" (March 2023 COMPASS) gems:

-  In 2050 we will have to feed 1.5 billion more people than we do today.
-  An Ag census revealed that 36% of US farmers are women and 56% of all farms have at least one female decision maker.
-  A USDA Census of Agriculture reported that 96% of US farms are family owned.
-  And this from CDFA Ag statistics 2022: California's top three commodities are dairy products (milk), grapes, and almonds (shelled.)

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Preparing for the May SWM takes time and focus. Ours is the age of distractions. The pings, buzzes and chimes from our phones, tablets, laptops, watches, and inappropriate songs emanating from our phones, and the noise-cancelling earbuds distract us from focusing our undivided attention to the task at hand. (When writing this, I had to turn off all my devices and take several walks.)

And keeping track of the myriad of legislative and regulatory dictates impacting California's agricultural landscape hurling our way at the speed of light is a daunting, but doable, task.

As we walk the halls of The Capitol we need to be focused, organized, be able to provide AG expertise and viewpoints that legislators may not have considered and provide positive dialogue to build bridges.



Archimedes once said "If you give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, I shall move the world."

We have the lever of information and passion and the fulcrum of knowing where to employ our pressure, always keeping in mind our goal of keeping the California agriculture community sustainable and flourishing.

Come join us in Sacramento! I look forward to seeing you there!

Cheers,

Sharron

Senator Lena A. Gonzalez CWA's 2023 Cornucopia Award

By: Taylor Roschen

Senator Lena A. Gonzalez was first elected to the State Senate to represent the 33rd District in a special election in June of 2019 and was subsequently re-elected in the November 3, 2020 general election for her first full 4-year term. As State Senator, she represents nearly 1 million residents in Southeast Los Angeles, Signal Hill, portions of South Los Angeles, Lakewood, and her hometown of Long Beach.



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She prioritizes and fights for a clean environment, digital inclusion, LGBTQ+ and women's rights and the economic vitality of small businesses among other policy areas.

In 2020, Senator Gonzalez chaired a newly formed bipartisan committee of eleven senators that was tasked with reviewing the state's response to the COVID-19 health crisis. In her time as Chair of the Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response, Gonzalez led a series of hearings to inform and strengthen the strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, covering topics such as testing and contact tracing, workplace health and safety issues and K-12 distance learning.

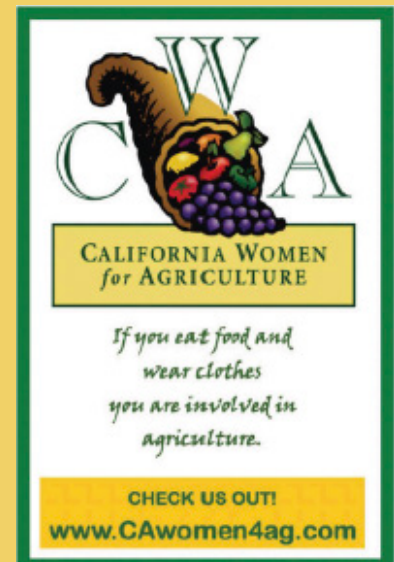
Senator Gonzalez's first bill, SB 1255 "The Equal Insurance HIV Act" was signed into law on September 26, 2020. The law prohibits life and disability income insurance companies from denying coverage to HIV-positive individuals solely based on their HIV status. A milestone in health equity, this law puts an end to the unjust practice of insurance companies discriminating against HIV-positive individuals.

In 2021, she was appointed Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, becoming the first Latina (o) to ever serve in this capacity and the only woman to serve in over 20 years. She was also appointed as Majority Whip, one of seven Democratic leadership positions in the California State Senate, and as an Ex-Officio board member of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

More recently, the California Latino Legislative Caucus (CLLC) elected Senator Gonzalez as their incoming Vice Chair, her two-year term beginning on December 5, 2022.

To date, Senator Gonzalez has authored legislation to advance digital equity, create equitable healthcare access, protect the environment, support small businesses, and defend LGBTQ+, women, and workers' rights, including eighteen bills that were signed into law. Her landmark legislation includes Broadband for All, The Abortion Accessibility Act, The Equal Insurance HIV Act, Workplace Safety Enforcement, Oil Well Setbacks to End Neighborhood Drilling, and Supporting Street Food Vendors. Through the 2021 State Budget, Senator Gonzalez was instrumental in the passage of the state's landmark \$6 billion investment to expand broadband infrastructure and enhance internet access for unserved and underserved communities in California.

Senator Gonzalez also helped secure millions of dollars in the 2021 State Budget for Senate District 33 projects including funds for the cleanup of the community surrounding the Exide Technology Facility, local parks rehabilitation, a workforce development center, and a community health and wellness clinic. In 2022, she secured \$250 million to rebuild Lynwood High School and over \$17 million to enhance open spaces and address homelessness in the District.



The Compass is the external communication for California Women for Agriculture. Recipients include CWA members, agriculture organizations, associations, elected and appointed officials and other selected recipients. Chapters are encouraged to submit news, photos, announcements, articles, and suggestions. Directors should submit issue updates and information in advance if action is required.

The Compass is published four times a year by California Women for Agriculture as a service to members.

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CWA's 2023 Cornucopia Award Continued

Prior to her time in the Senate, Gonzalez worked for Microsoft where she led social impact programs on digital skills, the future of work and criminal justice reform. She led efforts to expand diversity and inclusion in the tech sector and to promote programs for underserved communities, such as supports for young girls of color in STEM.

She served on the Long Beach City Council from 2014-2019, representing 50,000 residents in Downtown Long Beach, including the Port of Long Beach.

AAW 2023 Mid-Year Meeting

By: Lora Daniels

After 18 years of membership with CWA and American Agri-Women (AAW), life and a little luck got me their 2023 Mid-Year Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. AAW's Mid-Year Meeting is a time for their members and Exec Board to review their policy papers to ensure that they are ready for the June Fly-In in Washington, D.C. and other legislative activities throughout the year. I have to say as a "policy geek" this was an experience right up my alley. Although the process may not seem enticing it was a wonderful experience to read each line of the AAW policies and a reminder of how our words and their meaning impact and create our history when we are interacting with the various touchpoints of our roles as "AgVocates." We were broken up into the three main policy groups and each group reviewed the policy statements line-by-line and then we came back together as a group to gain consensus and adoption of any changes. In the end, the final product gives AAW its foundation statements that can be utilized in ways beyond their formal June Washington D.C. legislative visits. They are conversation starters, great beginnings for responses to the media or fodder for articles and requests for members to speak at public meetings and so much more. CWA has our position statements; they are included in our "Green Book" they are similar and born out of the AAW model and process. I encourage you all to visit these pages in

In this role, she led efforts in environmentalism, workforce development, housing and digital inclusion. She proudly served the city for a decade, both as an elected official and former staff member.

Senator Gonzalez is the proud daughter of a union truck driver father and mother who immigrated from Aguascalientes, Mexico. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Cal State Long Beach and a Master of Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University. She lives in Long Beach with her family.



the Green Book as they are more than "words" on a page they are a great resource for us to use as we walk...on our own advocate journey.

As for the rest of the AAW Mid-Year experience, the experience of meeting ladies from across America that are all interested in education, promotion and advocating for farmers and ranchers was a great one (Nashville did not disappoint either). I had the opportunity to tour downtown Nashville with our State President Sharron Zoller, we took in the sites and sounds of the Capitol Building and enjoyed an amazing lunch on the "busiest block" in Tennessee on Broadway. All memories that I will cherish, I truly encourage CWA members that have not been able to attend an AAW event to consider applying for a scholarship with either organization the connections opportunities for personal growth are invaluable no matter where you are at in your membership. CWA has the honor of being selected to host the 2023 AAW Convention this coming November in Sacramento, CA, we have a wonderful opportunity to show the ladies from across the U.S. our state.

AG FACTS

- Three top AG counties: Kern, Fresno, Tulare
- California raises 400 different crops
- California ranks second behind Florida for floriculture production
- California raises 2/3rds of the United State's total fruit and nut crop
- California leads the nation in milk and butter production
- California raises 62% of the nation's vegetables

**Source for the AG data, California Agricultural Statistics Review 2021-2022*

Flooding & Wells

By: Don A. Wright (www.WaterWrights.net)

There is certainly a lot of attention to the recent floods and the possibility of further flooding in California when the massive snowpack begins melting in the spring. There are many impacts from flooding. One of the things not usually considered is the well. What happens when a well is in a flood zone?

Drought is far more common in the San Joaquin Valley than free flowing water down seasonal streambeds. There are two types of natural water conveyance channels for precipitation to follow from the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Range; rain fed and snow fed. Our major rivers are all snow-fed meaning their

Sierra Watershed holding 300 percent of average snowpack, system operators and everyone downstream are praying for a long, cool spring. A prolonged spike in temperatures too early in the year can cause another major flood event.

When flood waters, come life and property are at risk but livestock and equipment are portable and with some foresight and planning can be removed from harm's way. Unfortunately, buildings: barns, houses and other permanent structures are vulnerable.

Maybe the most unmovable yet vital asset to a farm is its well. You can't just dig it up and take it with you until the waters recede. And you're going to need it afterwards as much as before.



watersheds include enough high country to receive snowmelt year round, at least on an average or better year. These are the bigger rivers like the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Feather, Kern and the many tributaries.

Then there are rainfed streams that have watersheds from lower elevations. They only run when it's raining. This year's snow level was exceptionally low and contributed to much of the flooding as warmer rains added snowmelt to the mix. One such case was Mill Creek on the Kings River. It empties into the Kings River downstream of Pine Flat Dam. There's no control on Mill Creek flows and that isn't usually a problem. This year Mill Creek's watershed was blanketed by an unusually heavy snowfall and it stayed cold at lower elevation long enough for it to accumulate. A rain that normally would empty into the creek caused an unprecedented flow on Mill Creek and with no way to stop it rolled on down the Kings River on its way to the Tulare Lake Bed.

There were several other creeks, streams and rivers in this condition and it caused flooding. With the Central

We spoke with Derick Grabow, Vice President Grabow Drilling of Hanford California. He said in many instances a well and pump can be sandbagged or a levee of some sort placed around it. But that isn't always enough to protect what can be an expensive sitting target. A new, pumping ag well is a six digit to the left of the decimal place investment.

Grabow said it is a shame that we as a society haven't invested in the water infrastructure to provide more storage for years like this. He said much of the flood water is high turbidity, there is a lot of stuff in it. This is true, it's not crystal clean tap water surging over roads and spilling out of channels. The most common description is chocolate milk. Dust, debris and soils get washed along and the flood water is full of silt. This silt gets into a pump, the electrical system attached to the pump and all of the surrounding equipment used to service the well such as valves and meters.

Jeff Costa, General Manager at Grabow said he's been drilling wells for more than two decades, "I haven't seen anything like this in 23 years."

Continued on Page 6

Flooding & Wells Continued

Costa said as bad as it can be there are ways to refurbish a well that has been flooded. He said it is common to detach and pull the pump and using a portable pump clear all the water and detritus from the well shaft and casing. It is possible to drop a video camera down the shaft and check for impediments preventing groundwater from entering the casing through slits or louvers in the casing.

Another problem Costa noted with the extremely turbid water is the silt can accumulate in the gravel pack. Well

casings are surrounded by gravel that allows water to enter the casing but keeps soil from getting against the casing and causing clogs. Highly turbid water can cause a seal in the gravel pack preventing water flow. Costa said you can swab a well, put high pressure (500 psi) in the casing and break up material causing clogs. Sometimes an acid solution can be used.

As you might expect well rehabilitation is an extra cost to flood recovery but much cheaper than having to drill a new well. Consult with your flood insurance carries for coverage.

Pesticide Use Has Declined Over the Years

By: Debra Stroschein

Pesticide use has decreased Statewide in 2021 according to the Department of Pesticide Regulation. In 2021, the amount of active ingredients applied has dropped by 11.5%. California is a 100 % pesticide use

reporting state. Pesticide Use Reports (PUR) includes pesticide use on the farm, parks, right of ways, etc. The following table are the PUR trends from 2011-2021.

2011-2021 PUR DATA TRENDS

Category	Change in Pounds Applied	Percentage Change Pounds	Change in Acres Treated	Percentage Change Acres
Biopesticides	3,331,017	77	2,849,208	51
Oils	8,924,618	31	894,606	22
Carcinogens	-7,711,013	-17	-2,510,038	-27
Cholinesterase Inhibitors	-1,601,732	-40	-1,657,085	-46
Fumigants	-8,190,384	-18	-192,949	-47
Groundwater Contaminants	-878,001	-81	-632,653	-74
Reproductive Toxins	-8,810,333	-58	-1,649,250	-32
Toxic Air Contaminants	-11,110,820	-22	-1,765,249	-49

“Pesticide use data plays a critical role in informing actions to protect human health and the environment, both in our regulatory work and in California’s transition to safer, more sustainable pest management,” as per Julie Henderson, DPR Director.

The above information came from: <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pressrls/2023/012723.htm> “New Reports

show decrease in Pesticide Use Statewide in 2021. In general pesticide use has changed over the years.”

We used to use pounds of materials per acre and now we use ounces or grams per acre. The trend is for safer pesticides. It takes 10-15 years, and the cost is about \$ 250 million dollars.

Honoring the 2023 Common Threads North Recipients!

Common Threads North Celebration was held Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at the Hotel Winters in Winters, California. A Reception and a delicious buffet dinner preceded the awards' presentation. A nice turn out of CWA members joined the celebration!



The 2023 Common Threads North Honorees: Geri Byrne of Tulelake (Modoc County), Bonnie Fernandez-Fenaroli of Woodland (Yolo County), Bobbin Mulvaney of Sacramento (Sacramento County), Audrey Z. Tennis of Chico (Butte County), Linda Walker of Los Molinos (Tehama County), And Sharron Zoller of Kelseyville (Lake County) each shared her AG story.

CWA Sacramento Legislative Statewide Meeting May 8-9, 2023 | Confirmed Speakers



Noelle Cremers, Wine Institute Director



Julie Henderson, Director of Department of Pesticide Regulation



Emily Rooney, President of the Agriculture Council of California



Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture



Senator Melissa Hurtado



Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio



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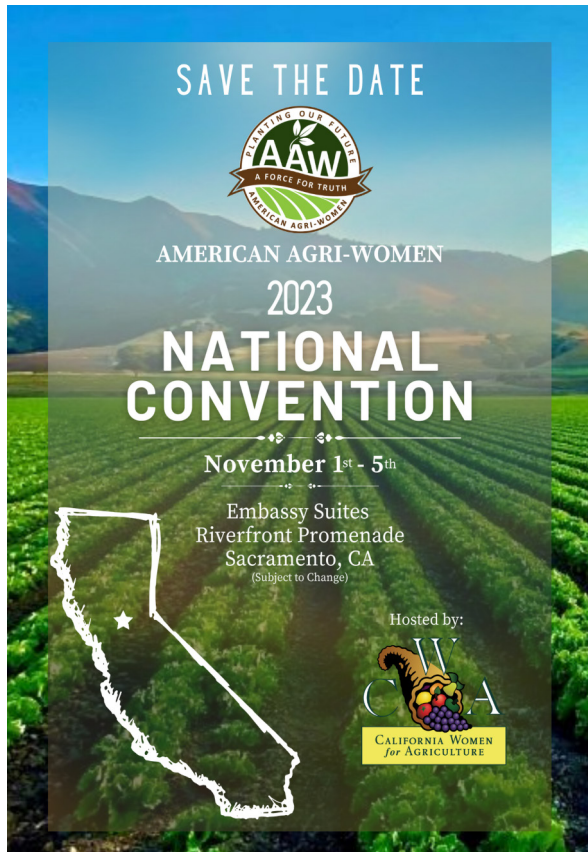
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U P C O M I N G C W A E V E N T S



AAW Fly In, Washington, D.C.
June 4-7, 2023

September SWM, Fresno, CA
September 9-10, 2023

November SWM & AAW Convention
November 1-5, 2023

January Convention & SWM, So. District
January 5-7, 2024

March 2024 SWM, Ventura, CA
CA March 8-10, 2024

AAW Mid-Year, Kansas
April 4-6, 2024

May 2024 SWM, Sacramento, CA

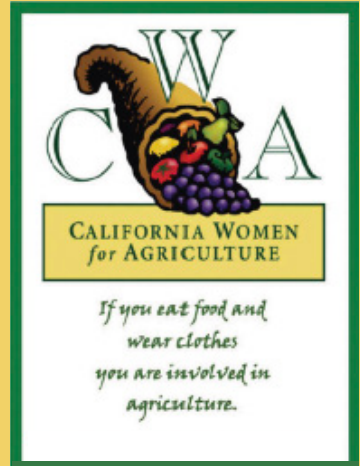
AAW Fly-in, Washington, D.C.
June 2024

September SWM, Ag Booster BBQ, Fresno
September 2024

AAW 50th Anniversary Convention, WI
November 2024

November 2024 SWM
TBD

January 2025 Convention & SWM
TBD



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