California Seed Association

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>W. Atlee Burpee III</td>
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<td>Scott Emanuelli</td>
<td>Carlsbad</td>
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Jessica Aceves
Michael Almeida
Gina Sideli

2018
Josue Diaz
Geena Rohr
Sammy Springer

2017
Aldo Garcia
Katie McCauley
Ignacio Mendoza

2016
Jenna Gallegos
Amanjot Kaur
Amanda Skidmore

2015
Tyler Maszk
Mitchell Harkenrider

2014
Kevin Coe
Lane Luis

2013
Danielle Vallejo
Shuang Shuang Liu

2012
Stacey Haack
Fei Yian Yoong

2011
Meagan Reese
William Zeb Rehrig
Shelby Repinski

2010
Vincent J. Dominguez
Randi Jimenez
Miguel Macias

2009
Frances J. Rond
K.C. Silacci

2008
Frances J. Rond
Thomas Bottoms
Mitchell Yerxa

2007
Bryanna Fissori
Frances J. Rond

2006
Meggie Marie Fagundes
Bonny Choate
Nicole Jansen

2005
James Rietkerk
Michael Portugal

2004
Richard J. Dal Porto, Jr.
Tim DeSilva

2003
Ryan Mudry
Beth Sequeira

2002
Kathryn Gray
Jessica George

2001
Janice Lohse
Brian Lohse

2000
Dominic DiGrazia
Janice Lohse

1999
Zachary Lucas Woody
Ryan S. Bounds

1998
Samantha Susanne Robbins
Cherie Lynn Walton

1997
Stacie Grange
Joel Canestrino
FIELD SEED/SEED CERTIFICATION/TURF SEED: The Chair of the Field Seed/Seed Certification has a most important duty in planning and conducting at least two meetings a year of the Section Membership as well as Special Meetings that may be necessary from time to time to promote harmony and good public relations, and for solving problems common to and affecting the membership of C.S.A. In addition, it is the responsibility of the Chair and the Committee to:

1. Work with the Chair of the Youth Activities Committee to solicit youth participation in field crop projects;

2. Work with the Seed Industry Conference Planning Committee to organize the conference to ensure that field seed problems are adequately covered in these conferences;

3. Provide input to CSA staff on pesticide registration to ensure that agricultural chemicals required in the field seed industry are available for use in California;

4. Plan and carry out specific programs which affect the overall field section industry of California;

5. Work with association officers and other committees to support the CSA Code of Ethics;

6. Advise and inform the chair of the Legislative Committee to keep him/her abreast of changes that occur or are projected in various laws and regulations, particularly in California, in order that he/she might act if necessary;

7. Appoint study groups which will address subject and problem areas specific to those types of field seed, whenever the need arises;

8. The Chair serves automatically as voting member of CSA Board of Directors.

The CSA Board of Directors will also appoint a member of the committee to serve as CSA’s representative on the California Crop Improvement Association Board of Directors. That individual shall serve no more than four consecutive one-year terms. Multiple terms are recommended to provide continuity of representation.

The CCIA representative shall coordinate seed certification related activities of the Field Seed Section. Since certified seed represents a substantial portion of California seed sold the committee shall:

a. Represent the interests of the California field and vegetable seed industry involved in and affected by the distribution and sales of certified seeds in the commercial trade channels;

b. Provide and maintain communication and accountability between the CSA and the California Crop Improvement Association;
c. And, inform the section chair and the association officers of any developments in this field of activity.

SEED DEALERS COMMITTEE: The Chair will plan and conduct a meeting as needed to be held during the CSA Annual Convention. A second optional meeting may be held at the CSA Midyear Meeting. Other meetings shall be held at such times and places as the Chair deems appropriate. Issues impacting seed dealers may be discussed at the annual convention in a problem solving format, or speakers may be scheduled to present information pertinent to the activities and functions of seed dealers. Areas of interest include:

1. New products and services and education about same;
2. General business operation topics;
3. Operational aspects of seed dealership that are specific to dealing in seed;
4. Relationships and liaison between breeder-producers and seed dealers;
5. Governmental regulations, statutes and issues specifically impacting seed dealers and agricultural suppliers in general and advising the Chair of the CSA Legislative Committee regarding these matters;
6. Working with the officers and directors of CSA to support the CSA Code of Ethics.

VEGETABLE / FLOWER SEED / GROWER SHIPPER LIAISON & PLANT HEALTH COMMITTEE: The Chair of the Vegetable Seed Section and the Committee have a most important duty in planning and conducting at least two meetings a year of the Section Membership, as well as Special Meetings that may be necessary from time to time to promote harmony and good public relations, and for solving problems common to and affecting the membership of CSA. In addition, it is the responsibility of the Chair and the Committee to:

1. Work with the Chair of the Youth Activities Committee to solicit youth participation in vegetable crop projects;
2. Work with the Seed Industry Conference Planning Committee to organize the conference to the end that vegetable, flower seed and plant health problems are adequately covered in these conferences;
3. Provide input to CSA staff on pesticide registrations to ensure that agricultural chemicals required by the vegetable and flower seed industry are available for use in California;
4. Plan and carry out specific programs which affect the overall vegetable and flower seed industry in California;
5. Work with association officers and other committees to support the CSA Code of Ethics;
6. Advise and inform the Chair of the Legislative Committee to keep him/her abreast of changes that occur or are projected in the various laws and regulations primarily in California in order that he/she might act if necessary;

7. The Committee Chair serves automatically as a voting member of CSA Board of Directors.

The Committee shall also maintain lines of communication between the seed industry and the vegetable grower and shipper community.

CSA’s main activity on plant health issues has been to work with county agricultural commissioners, grower-shipper associations, the CDFA and seed testing laboratories to promote an effective Lettuce-Mosaic testing and control program. The committee will continue to address other plant health issues, particularly those that relate to seedborne diseases. However, all matters involving the relationship between the vegetable/produce industry and the seed industry fall under the jurisdiction of this committee.

PLANT BREEDERS & BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

Research Section: This section was established to provide an opportunity for close liaison between research personnel in University and College programs and member firms supporting C.S.A. The expanding research programs in the industry make it necessary to more closely examine the private and public agencies programs in operation to assure that each can most effectively channel its programs to meet the needs for improved field and vegetable seed crops.

The CSA Plant Breeders/Biotechnology Committee provides industry leadership in all matters pertaining to biotechnology as it applies to plant life and shall make recommendations to the CSA Board in all matters of federal and state legislation and regulation pertaining to the technology. Coverage includes research and development and commercial release into the environment of plant life modified through the application of genetically modified microorganisms. The committee deals with transgenic variety distribution issues of concern to the membership.

The committee also recommends educational program topics to the CSA membership to increase understanding in this area, and develops a public awareness program to facilitate the acceptance of these new technologies.

The Administrative Council for the Research Section is composed of equal representation from public and private breeders. The Chair and Vice Chair are alternately chosen from public and private breeders with the Vice Chair annually succeeding the Chair in office. It is the duty of the officers to:

1. Plan and carry out specific subject matter programs in connection with the Annual Meeting of CSA;
2. To serve as a program committee for developing the Plant Breeders & Biotechnology portion of the program for the Seed Industry Conference;

3. To cooperate with the Field Seed/Seed Certification and the Vegetable Seed Section to make recommendations on technical matters that may be assigned to the committee by the Chair;

4. To maintain close contacts with legislative programs and inform the Legislative Chair regarding any subject that may have special significance to plant breeding in both the public and private programs.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** The work of this Legislative Committee continues as the fundamental purpose of the CSA. While primarily concerned with Intra State Seed Law and Regulations, the importance of California production also make it mandatory to be concerned with Federal law and legislation in other states.

It is the duty of the Chair and the Committee to:

1. Study all proposed legislation that would affect the general membership;

2. To advise the Board of Directors regarding any recommended action to be taken;

3. To give suggestions, advice and instructions to the delegates to the California Seed Council, which are part of this Committee;

4. To work with the appropriate government legislative people in presenting our views on legislation and regulation;

5. To maintain good relations with State enforcement personnel and the appropriate people in the State Department of Food and Agriculture.

**INDUSTRY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE and YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:** It is the responsibility of this committee to serve as the industry’s voice to the general public. More specifically, this committee will collaborate with agricultural and horticultural youth organizations to cultivate the next generation of agricultural operators. Aligned with this youth outreach program is the goal of enhancing public awareness and opinion of the seed industry’s contributions to agriculture.

The committee will maintain good relations with the University of California Cooperative Extension Service, its 4-H representatives, and all FFA groups and their correlating and supervising entities at both state and local levels. In furtherance of these objectives, it is the policy of CSA that such youth groups shall be encouraged by public recognition and awards, and it shall be the goal of the Committee and its Chair to encourage the total membership of CSA and agriculture in general, to be responsive to the needs of agriculturally oriented youth groups whenever and wherever possible. It shall be the duty of the Chair to call such meetings as necessary to sustain of the objectives of the committee.
Public Relations - Attention will be focused on mainstream media serving the general public and serving agriculture and the seed industry. The committee will assist CSA staff in identifying topic areas and issues as they arise for action through association press releases, opinion editorials, letters to the editor and other means of media contact. The committee may also host media events and tours to better inform the press about issues facing the seed industry.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: The 1st Vice President will serve as Chair of this committee and the Secretary/Treasurer will serve as Vice Chair. The Associate member on the Board will serve as the Membership Chair for the Associate category of membership. The purpose of this committee is to retain current membership levels as well as obtain new members. The ultimate goal is for this committee to achieve growth and strengthen the membership base of the California Seed Association. The duties and activities of the Membership Committee are:

1. To recognize that membership recruitment and retention is vital;
2. To seek out those active and participating directly in the seed industry;
3. Seek out those in allied businesses for Associate Membership;
4. Recommend approval of new members to the Board of Directors;
5. Acknowledge new member sponsoring firms;
6. Form a three member club for those who sponsor three or more members and provide incentives;
7. Have membership committee meetings at the convention and the mid-year.
So that you may understand the purpose and philosophy of the California Seed Association, we publish this condensed version of relevant sections of our Articles of Incorporation.

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States; to maintain law and order; to foster and encourage the highest ideals of citizenship; to assist in the development of the State of California by encouraging the best uses of its natural resources and by improving the material and social conditions of all its people.

To serve the interests of agricultural developments within the State of California by improving friendly business relations between members, the promotion of the legitimate interests of the Seed Trade within the State, and cooperation with educational and regulatory authorities and other interested agencies in the development of a sound and effective seed program.

To develop, encourage, promote and enforce among its members a firmer business unity. To improve and perfect high standards of integrity and ethics in transactions between the members, between members and their customers, and with the general public.

Therefore, CSA does not condone or agree with the practice of circumventing laws and regulations, which protect ownership rights in seed varieties, for profit at the expense of CSA members or other companies.

Specifically, CSA is strongly opposed to the practice of producing and/or selling varieties of seed not protected under the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVP) or the various U.S. Patent laws by any person or company other than the owner or without the express permission of the owner and does not believe this to be ethical behavior between members.

It shall be the duty of each and every member of this Association to uphold, promote and abide by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the California Seed Association, and to conduct the members’ business in accordance with its objectives and purposes.

To assure that in all sales and contracts of sale and advertisements, the members of the Association shall practice entire good faith, shall give full and truthful representations of the quality and description of seeds sold or offered for sale, and in their trade relations shall studiously avoid the use of terms or expressions that are false or misleading.

To represent member firms before and to cooperate with committees of the Legislature, administrative officials, and Commissions of the State to the end that the interests of its member firms shall be thoroughly and adequately considered and understood in relation to contemplated legislation, rules and regulations, and administrative orders.

To gather and disseminate information. To make factual surveys and investigations. To prepare and publish to its membership, bulletins and digests which will increase the efficiency of the operation of its members and increase the knowledge of its members as to their respective rights and privileges.
ARTICLE I

NAME, LOCATION AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the: California Seed Association, incorporated not for profit under the laws of California.

SECTION 2. The principal office of the Association shall be located in a geographic area designated by the Board of Directors as best serving the basic purpose of the organization and the needs and interests of the membership.

SECTION 3. The purpose of the Association is to provide a wide range of specialized services and activities which seed industry firms may utilize to collectively address industry needs, interests and issues on a continuing basis.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Classification of Members. There shall be six (6) classes of members of the Association, namely active members, associate members, affiliate members, research members, student members, and honorary members.

SECTION 2. Eligibility for Membership:
(a) Active Members. Individual firms or corporations engaged in the distribution, breeding, production and enhancement of seeds, except retailers selling seeds exclusively in packets, are eligible for active membership in the Association. Each active member shall pay annual dues which shall be determined in accordance with the annual total gross sales in seeds done by such member as set forth in the classes below. Such sales volume shall include all separate fees charged on the sale of seed for technology, development, or any treatments, coatings or enhancement processes that are part of the value of the seed.

(b) Associate Members. Individual firms or corporations in any way engaged or connected with the seed industry or its allied branches, excepting those qualifying for active. If your business entity qualifies as an active member you cannot qualify as an associate member.

(c) Research Members. Research members are individuals from universities, state colleges, community colleges, or other public institutions within the state of California maintaining agricultural and horticultural research programs.

(d) Student Members. Student members are individuals who are enrolled in an educational institution.

(e) Honorary Members. Honorary members shall consist of those persons, firms, and corporations, to who for any reason this honor may be extended by the Association President, the Board of Directors or members of the Association entitled to vote by a majority in attendance at the meeting of the Board of Directors or members at which such honorary membership is extended.
(f) Affiliate Members. Individuals who have retired from the seed industry and want to remain affiliated with the Association. No one qualifying for active, associate or out-of-state membership is eligible for affiliate membership in the Association.

Active, associate, research, affiliate, and student members may be elected to membership by a majority vote of the Board of Directors after having applied for CSA membership. The general membership shall be notified of all applications for membership. Members wishing to comment on the qualifications of an applicant must do so in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer or Executive Vice-President no later than 15 days prior to the date of the board meeting at which the applicant will be considered. Absence of comment on an applicant will be interpreted as approval by the membership. All applications for membership must be accompanied by one year’s dues payment prorated to the nearest quarter-year according to the class of membership which is applied for.

Honorary memberships may be granted by the Board of Directors or the President at the annual meeting of the Association. No more than one honorary member may be selected in one year. Honorary members shall be exempt from annual dues.

ARTICLE III
TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Disciplinary Action. A member of the Association may be suspended or expelled from membership for conduct in violation of, or derogatory to, the principles established by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and by the Bylaws of the Association. Written charges of such conduct shall be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer or Executive Vice-President by any member. Upon receipt of such charges, the Secretary-Treasurer or Executive Vice-President shall transmit a copy thereof by registered mail to the member against whom the charges have been filed. Said member shall have the privilege of filing an answer to the charges provided that any answer so made shall be filed within 15 days from the time the charges are transmitted. A copy of such answer, if any, shall be forwarded promptly by the Secretary-Treasurer or Executive Vice-President to the complaining member. The latter shall have the privilege of filing a reply to the answer, a copy of which, if any, shall be transmitted to the Secretary-Treasurer or Executive Vice-President within 10 days after the answer is mailed to the complaining member.

The Secretary-Treasurer or Executive Vice-President of the Association thereafter shall refer the written charges, the answer and reply thereto, to a subcommittee appointed by the President consisting of 3 members of the Board of Directors who shall investigate such charges as expeditiously as possible. The subcommittee shall afford all parties to the controversy an opportunity to be heard if they so desire. Thereafter, the subcommittee shall file a report setting forth its conclusions and recommendations within 30 days to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may either approve the report of the subcommittee, or it may cause such further investigation of the charges to be made as it determines is necessary or desirable. It shall then:
(a) Dismiss the charges;
(b) Suspend the offending member for a period of one year, all dues to be paid during the period of suspension;
(c) Expel the offending member; or
(d) Take such other action as the Board of Directors may deem advisable.

The Secretary or the Executive Vice-President shall notify the member against whom the charges have been filed of the action taken by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Nonpayment of Dues. Members who fail to pay their dues, subscriptions or assessments within sixty (60) days from the time same became due shall be notified and if payment is not made within the next succeeding thirty (30) days, shall be reported to the Board of Directors as in arrears, and, if so ordered by the Board, shall be dropped from the rolls and thereupon forfeit all rights and privileges of membership. Members who have been terminated for nonpayment of dues may be formally reinstated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Voluntary. Members may terminate their membership voluntarily by filing a written resignation as a member of the Association with the Secretary-Treasurer or Executive Vice-President of the Association.

SECTION 4. Termination of Rights. All rights of members of the Association shall cease upon the termination of their membership from whatever cause.

SECTION 5. Reinstatement. A former member whose membership has been terminated as provided in this Article may apply for reinstatement. The application shall be supported by such sponsorship as the Board of Directors may determine. In addition, each such application shall be accompanied by all dues and assessments, if any, that were delinquent at the time the applicant’s membership was terminated and that remain unpaid at the time the application is being filed.

ARTICLE IV

DUES

SECTION 1. Dues shall be reviewed and set annually by the Board of Directors, and shall be paid by the first day of the beginning of each fiscal year in accordance with the following guidelines:

(a) Active Members. Each active member shall pay annual dues which shall be determined in accordance with the gross dollar volume of seed business done by such member. Such volume shall include all separate fees charged on the sale of seed for technology, development, or any treatments, coatings or enhancement processes that are part of the value of the seed. For seed companies operating in multiple states or countries with a California based conditioning facility, sales office or warehouse, "gross dollar volume" is calculated on seed labeled, use or certified in California.

(b) Associate Members. Associate members pay annual dues on a flat rate basis.

(c) Research Members. Research members from public institutions shall pay annual dues on a flat rate basis.

(d) Out-of-State. Out-of-State members shall pay annual dues on a flat rate basis.

(e) Affiliate Members. Affiliate members shall pay annual dues on a flat rate basis.
SECTION 2. Special Dues. In case of an emergency, to stimulate membership sales the Board of Directors, by unanimous vote of the Board, shall have the power to adjust dues or to levy special assessments which may be different from the dues.

SECTION 3. Special Assessment. Any segment of the Association by two-thirds (2/3) vote, may assess itself for its own purposes and benefit. Such assessment to be separately accounted for in general fund of the Association. In all cases the assessment shall be subject, to approval of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Membership and Fiscal Year. The membership and fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE V
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Vice-President, provided however, that an Executive Vice-President shall not be elected for any year with respect to which the Board of Directors by resolution signifies that the office shall not be filled. All officers shall be elected at the regular annual meeting by the active members, except the Executive Vice-President, who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The elected officers shall also serve as the Executive Committee.

All Officers and Directors must reside within the state of California, work out of an established place of business in California and must be a voting member of the Association.

SECTION 2. (a) The Board of Directors shall consist of eight (8) members of the Association who are eligible to vote, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, immediate Past President, the Chairpersons of the Field Seed and Vegetable Seed Sections and two (2) directors at large. The Board of Directors shall be elected by the active members at the regular annual meeting. The two directors-at-large shall hold office for two (2) years serving staggered terms with one (1) director being elected each year. The President and Vice President shall hold office for one year. All other officers and directors shall hold office for two years and thereafter until his or her successor is elected and qualifies. The Executive Vice-President, if any, shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board of Directors and may also hold the office of Secretary-Treasurer when so designated by resolution of the Board. Officers and directors shall be elected at the regular annual meeting by a vote of the active members; a majority of the votes cast shall constitute a choice.

(b) The Board of Directors shall also include one, ex-officio, voting member appointed from the associate membership by the Board of Directors. The term of the associate member director shall be one year, and there shall be no limit on the number of consecutive terms that may be served. The appointment shall be made at the first Board meeting at the CSA annual convention each year. The Nominating Committee shall submit at least one name of an associate member to the Board for their consideration. The associate member will act as a liaison between the associate membership and the Board, serve on the Membership Committee and coordinate associate member activities and functions at the annual convention.
SECTION 3. In the event of resignation, death or removal from the office of President, the Vice-President shall assume the office and title of President. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors, except that a vacancy created by the removal of a Director by a vote of the members may be filled only by the members in the manner provided for election of a Director. Each Director so selected shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the Director replaced and until a successor has been elected and qualified.

SECTION 4. Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors. Officers and directors shall be elected annually by the members eligible to vote and voting at the regular annual meeting where a quorum is present. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for submission to the members at the annual meeting, placing in nomination at least one eligible member for each office to be filled. Members may also nominate candidates for one or all of the offices. Such nominations shall be subscribed to by at least 3 members in good standing at the time of the annual meeting. Any candidate wishing to do so shall be afforded reasonable opportunity at the annual meeting to communicate their qualifications for office to the members and solicit vote. The President shall have authority to determine the amount of time each candidate will be given at the podium to present their statement.

SECTION 5. Compensation of Directors. Officers, directors, and members of committees shall serve without compensation for their services. This section shall not preclude any director from serving the Association in any other capacity as an agent, employee or otherwise, and receiving compensation for that service.

SECTION 6. Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and locations as may be designated by the Board. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held without the physical presence of some or all directors by conference telephone or similar communications equipment as long as all directors participating in the meeting can hear one another. Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the President or any two directors. Notice of the time and place of any special meeting of the Board shall be given to each director by four days notice by first class mail, or 48 hours notice delivered in person, by telephone, by facsimile or telegraph at the director’s address of record. The notice need not specify the purpose of the meeting.

SECTION 7. Action Without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if all member of the Board individually or collectively consent in writing to that action. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board. Such written consent shall be filed with the Minutes of the Board.

SECTION 8. Quorum. A majority of the authorized number of directors as stated in Article V, Section 2 is a quorum for the transaction of business. An action taken by a majority of the directors present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present is the act of the Board, except as a greater number may be required by these Bylaws or by law. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business notwithstanding the withdrawal of directors, if any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the required quorum for the meeting.
SECTION 9. Adjournment. A majority of the directors as stated in Article V, Section 2 present, whether or not a quorum, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. If the meeting is adjourned for more than 24 hours, notice of the adjournment shall be given before the time of the adjourned meeting to the directors who were not present at the time of adjournment.

SECTION 10. Waiver of Notice. The transaction of any meeting of the Board of Directors, however called and noticed or wherever held, shall be as valid as though had at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice if a quorum is present and if, either before or after the meeting, each of the directors not present signs a written waiver of notice or a written consent to holding of the meeting or an approval of the Minutes of the meeting. The waiver of notice or consent need not specify the purpose of the meeting. All such waivers, consents and approvals shall be filed with the Association records or made a part of the Minutes of the meeting. Notice of a meeting shall also be deemed duly given to any director who attends the meeting without protesting, before or at the commencement of the meeting, the lack of notice to that director.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the President, or in his or her absence, the Vice-President, or in the absence of both, the Immediate Past President, to preside at all Association and directors’ meetings.

SECTION 2. The President shall appoint, with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, regular committees and special committees as shall be provided for by action of the Association at its meetings. All committees thus appointed by the President are to maintain their entity through the next annual meeting. The President shall direct the Secretary-Treasurer to have the books of the Association audited by a Certified Public Accountant at the close of each fiscal year. The Secretary-Treasurer shall deliver a copy of each certified audit to the officers and directors of the Association within thirty (30) days after the receipt of same.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer, unless delegated to the Executive Vice-President, to attend all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors, and to keep a careful record of their doings, to conduct necessary correspondence, and to carry into execution all orders, votes and resolutions not otherwise committed; to keep a list of members; notify:
   (a) Members of their election.
   (b) Members of committees of their appointments.
   (c) All members in advance of any meeting as provided in Article VIII, Section 1 and 3.
   (d) The Directors of any meeting, as provided in Article V.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall also cause the books and records to be audited by a Certified Public Accountant when directed to do so by the President pursuant to the preceding Section 2 of this Article V.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall, unless delegated to the Executive Vice-President, collect all dues and assessments; shall keep an account of all money received and expended for the use of the Association, and shall pay all accounts owed by the Association which fall within the amount budgeted for specific functions or activities. All other sums owed by the Association must be examined and approved by the Secretary-Treasurer or the President before payment unless
delegated to the Executive Vice President. If delegated to the Executive Vice President, the Secretary-Treasurer or President must review all such payments within fifteen (15) days of the payment date. When his or her term of office expires, the Secretary-Treasurer shall deliver to the successor or, in his or her absence, to the President or Executive Vice President, all books, moneys and other property of the Association in his or her possession.

SECTION 4. In the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Vice President, the President shall appoint a Secretary pro tempore.

SECTION 5. The Executive Vice-President, when appointed by the Board of Directors, shall assist the President of the Association in carrying out his or her duties and the actions of the Board of Directors. The Executive Vice President shall attend all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. The Board of Directors, subject to the limitations of these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, and laws of California, shall conduct the affairs of the Association and act in an advisory capacity to the President, and shall consider and pass upon such matters as may be referred to it from time to time. The policies and work of the Association and its committees shall be governed by the Board of Directors through its officers. The Board shall have complete charge of all finances and property of the Association.

SECTION 7. Additional Powers of the Board of Directors. Without prejudice to the general powers stated in Section 6 of this Article, and subject to the same limitations, the Board of Directors shall have the power to:

(a) Select, employ and discharge an Executive Vice-President and any other employees and/or agents of the Association by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Board; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws; fix their compensation and other terms of employment;

(b) Change the principal office of the Association in California from one location to another and designate any place in or out of California for the holding of any meeting or meetings of members, including annual meetings;

(c) Adopt, make or use a corporate seal;

(d) Levy annual dues, assessments or fees upon members and set the date or dates for their payment; change the amount of such dues, assessments or fees from time to time and provide for the collection or penalties for nonpayment of such dues, assessments or fees;

(e) Make prudent financial investments of Association funds; borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the Association and cause to be executed and delivered for the Association’s purposes, in the corporate name, any instrument or other evidences of debt and securities;

(f) Create, designate directors to serve on, and specify the limits of authority of a committee or committees of the Board by resolution of a majority of the directors in office; by majority vote of the directors in office, create, specify the authority of, and approve appointments to such other committees, task forces, and study groups composed of directors or nondirectors or both as the Board may deem necessary to the conduct of Association affairs.
(g) Set a record date of not more than 60 nor less than 10 days before the date of a meeting of members for the purpose of determining the members entitled to notice of the meeting; set a record date not more than 60 days before a meeting of members for the purpose of determining the members entitled to vote at the meeting; set a date of not more than 60 days before the day on which the first written ballot is mailed for the purpose of determining the members entitled to cast written ballots; and set a date not more than 60 days before the time for exercise by members of any of their rights with respect to any other lawful action as the record date for the purpose of determining the members entitled to exercise such rights, but if no record date is set by the Board of Directors under this Bylaw position, the record date shall be as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, or be law; (h) Adopt, amend, or repeal Bylaws of the Association subject to the review and approval of the membership, except that no Bylaw changing the number of directors or term of office of the directors of this Association may be adopted by the directors. Such action can only be taken by affirmative vote of the members eligible to vote at the annual meeting, a special meeting or through a written ballot.

ARTICLE VII

INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 1. The Association shall indemnify to the extent possible every director, member of a committee of the Association, officer or employee of the Association, his or her heirs, executors and administrators, against all liabilities and all expenses (including attorney’s fees) reasonably incurred by him in connection with any action, suit or proceeding to which he may be made a party by reason of his being or having been a director, member of a committee, officer or employee of the Association. No indemnification shall be provided in relation to matters as to which he or she shall be finally adjudged in an action, suit or proceeding to be liable for negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of his or her duties to the Association. In the event of a settlement, indemnification shall be provided only in connection with such matters covered by the settlement as to which a majority of the entire Board of Directors of the Association, after having received the opinion of counsel, shall by resolution determine that the person to be indemnified did not commit a breach of duty. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of other rights to which said director, member of a committee, officer or employee may be entitled.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual meeting of the members of the Association at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine. At this meeting any proper business within the power of the members may be transacted.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings. Special meeting of members may be called by the Board of Directors, the President or upon the request of 5% or more of the voting members as submitted in writing to the principal office of the Association. The request shall specify the time desired for the meeting, not less than 35 or more than 90 days after receipt of the request, and shall also state the general nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.
A special meeting called by request shall be set at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors on a date not less than 35 nor more than 90 days after receipt of the request. Within 20 days after receipt of the request, notice shall be given to all members entitled to vote at the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting. No other business may be transacted at that meeting.

SECTION 3. Notices of Meetings. All notices of meeting of members shall be sent by mail to the member’s current address of record not less than 10 or more than 90 days before the date of the meeting. The notice shall specify the place, date and time of the meeting and a description of those matters that will be presented for action by the members.

SECTION 4. Record Date for Notice. Members at the close of business on the business day preceding the day on which notice is given, and who are entitled to vote at the meeting, are entitled to notice of a meeting of members, subject to the power of the Board of Directors to fix a different record date.

SECTION 5. Quorum. The presence in person or by proxy, if authorized by the Board of Directors, of 20 members entitled to vote at a duly called or held meeting of members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at that meeting. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of the voting power represented at the meeting, entitled to vote, and voting on any matter shall be required to pass a motion representing an act of the members, unless the vote of a greater number is required by law. If a quorum is in attendance at a meeting, but some members withdraw once the meeting is in progress, leaving less than a quorum, the remaining members may continue to transact business, if any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the members required for a quorum.

SECTION 6. Voting. Each active member in good standing shall have one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members and for each officer and directorship to be filled at an election. If a single membership is represented by two or more persons, one shall vote the entire membership for all. Members on the day of the meeting who are eligible to vote on that day are entitled to vote at the meeting, subject to the power of the Board of Directors to fix a different record date for voting purposes. Cumulative voting is not authorized.

SECTION 7. Proxies. Voting by proxy is generally not authorized unless the Board of Directors determines such voting procedure to be appropriate in a particular instance in which case the provisions of Section 7613 of the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation law shall apply.

SECTION 8. Action by Written Ballot. Any action, including election of officers and directors, that may be taken at any annual regular meeting or special meeting of members may be taken without a meeting and without notice, if a written ballot is distributed to every member entitled to vote on the matter on the day that the first written ballot is mailed. Such distribution of written ballots shall be in the manner provided for giving notice of a meeting of members. The written ballot shall (i) set forth the proposed action, (ii) provide an opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of any proposal, (iii) provide a reasonable time within which to return the ballot to the principal office of the Association, (iv) indicate that a response of at least 25% of the members entitled to vote is needed to meet the quorum requirement, (v) indicate that if a quorum responds, the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting power responding to the written ballot is required to approve the proposed action, and (vi) specify the time by which the ballot must be received by the Association to be counted.
A matter shall be approved by written ballot and thereby binding on the general membership if the quorum requirement and majority vote requirements stated in this section are met. Any member casting a ballot may revoke the ballot, or substitute another, by a writing received by the Association prior to the time by which the ballot must be received by the Association to be counted, but may not do so thereafter. Such revocation or substitution is effective upon its receipt by the Secretary or Executive Vice-President of the Association.

If a written ballot in an election of officers and directors is marked “withhold” or otherwise marked to indicate that the authority to vote for officers or directors is withheld by the member, it cannot be counted as a vote either for or against the election of a director.

All written ballots shall be maintained in the records of the Association. The result of the written ballot shall be stated in a mailing to members within 60 days.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. All standing and special committees, study groups and task forces shall be appointed by the President, with the concurrence of the Board. Committee action shall be subject to the approval of the Board.

SECTION 2. Nominating Committee. The President shall, at least sixty days before the annual meeting, appoint a nominating committee of a chairman and two other members in good standing who are eligible to vote. The committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for submission to the membership eligible to vote at the annual meeting, placing in nomination at least one eligible member for each Board of Director and officer position to be filled for the ensuing year, giving recognition as far as practical to the functional and geographical divisions in the industry.

SECTION 3. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the Association in any lawful matter when the Board is not in session, reporting to the Board for its ratification of their action by mail vote or at each regular or any special meeting for that purpose.

ARTICLE X

BOOKS, RECORDS AND REPORTS

SECTION 1. Annual Reports to Members

(a) Each year, each member shall be notified of the member’s right to receive the annual financial report of the Association. A copy of the most recent annual financial report shall be promptly sent to any member who sends a written request for the report.

(b) Not later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year, the Association shall prepare an annual financial report containing (i) a balance sheet as of the end of the fiscal year, (ii) an income statement for the fiscal year, (iii) a statement of changes in financial position for the fiscal year, (iv) a statement that the names and addresses of current members of the Association are located at the principal office of the Association and (v) the information required by subsection (c)
below. The report shall be accompanied by (i) any report on it be an independent accountant, or if there is no such report, (ii) the certificate of an authorized officer of the Association that the statement was prepared without an audit from books and records of the Association.

(c) Within 120 days after the close of the fiscal year, the Association shall prepare and give to each member a statement of any transaction within the Association in which either of (i) any director or officer or (ii) any holder of more than 10 percent of voting power, had a direct or indirect material financial interest. Any transaction or transactions aggregating more than $40,000.00 during the fiscal year, in which the same person had a direct or indirect financial interest, shall be reported together with (i) name of the person interested in the transaction, (ii) the person’s relationship to the Association, (iii) the nature of the person’s interest in the transaction, and (iv) where practicable, the amount of the interest (unless the transaction was with a partnership of which the person is a partner, in which case the partnership interest shall be stated). However, the statement shall not include compensation of officers or directors. The statement shall also briefly describe the amount and circumstances of any indemnifications or advance aggregating more than $10,000.00 paid during the fiscal year to any officer or director of the Association in connection with defense of any threatened or pending legal proceeding against that officer or director.

(d) The statement in subsection (c) shall be given to each member in the manner provided for giving notice of meeting of members. This requirement may be satisfied by sending the annual financial report containing this statement.

SECTION 2. Inspection by Directors. Every director has the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records and documents of any kind and the physical properties of the Association.

SECTION 3. Maintenance and Inspection of Record of Members. The Association shall keep at its principal office a record of its members containing the names and addresses and the class of membership held by each (“the membership list”).

A member of the Association may either (i) inspect and copy the membership list, at reasonable time, by making a written demand stating the purpose for which the inspection is requested, at least five business days before the inspection is to be made, or (ii) obtain from the Secretary, by written demand and payment of a reasonable charge, the membership list of the members entitled to vote for directors, as of the most recent record date for which the list has been compiled, or as of a date specified by the member subsequent to the date of demand. The latter demand must state the purpose for which the list is requested. Within 10 business days after receipt of the latter demand, or after the subsequent date specified in the demand, if the reasonable charge has been paid, the Secretary shall deliver the membership list to the requesting member.

In the alternative to (i) permitting inspection of the membership list or (ii) providing a membership list, as provided in the foregoing paragraph, the Association may within 10 business days after receiving the member’s demand, deliver a written offer of an alternative method of achieving the purpose identified in the demand. A member’s rejection of the offer must be in writing and must indicate the reasons that the alternative proposed does not meet the proper purpose of the demand.
SECTION 4. Maintenance and Inspection of Articles and Bylaws. A copy of the Association’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as amended to date, shall be maintained at the principal office of the Association and shall be open to inspection by any member at all reasonable times during office hours.

SECTION 5. Maintenance and Inspection of Other Corporate Records. The Association’s books and records of account and Minutes of the proceedings of its member, Board of Directors, and committees of the Boards shall be kept at the principal office of the Association. The Minutes shall be kept in written form or in any other form capable of being converted into written form. The Minutes and books and records of account shall be open to inspection upon the written demand of any member at any reasonable time during office hours, for a purpose reasonable related to the member’s interest as a member.

SECTION 6. Who May Inspect. Any right of inspection by a director or member stated in these Bylaws includes the right to copy and to make extracts of the records inspected and to inspect in person or by agent or attorney. Any record requested for inspection shall be made available in written form, on reasonable notice if not maintained in written form.

ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

SECTION 1. By the Membership. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members eligible to vote at any annual meeting where a quorum is present, or by two-thirds vote of the members of the Board of Directors, subject to an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting power present at the next annual meeting of the members where a quorum is present. Any amendment to be proposed to the membership shall be sent in writing to each member at least thirty days prior to such annual meeting.

SECTION 2. By the Board of Directors. Alterations and amendments made by the Board of Directors shall take effect at such time as they may designate, and shall continue in force until approved or rejected by the members at an annual meeting, as hereinbefore provided. Notices of any alterations or amendments made by the Board of Directors shall be mailed to each member at least thirty days prior to the date set for the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE XII
ARBITRATION

SECTION 1. When a member of this Association agrees orally or in writing with another member of this Association or with a member of an affiliated Association that disputes arising from business transactions between them shall be settled by arbitration pursuant to the Bylaws of the California Seed Association, the provisions of this Article and the procedures thereby established shall apply.
SECTION 2. The arbitration of all disputes specified in the Article shall be conducted in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association as in effect on November 1, 1973, or as thereafter amended which said Rules hereby are adopted as the Arbitration Rules for the California Seed Association with the exception that unless otherwise specified by agreement of the parties, oral hearings shall be waived and all disputes shall be submitted in writing in accordance with and in the manner prescribed by Section 36 of said Arbitration Rules.

SECTION 3. Members of the California Seed Association who fail or refuse to comply with an agreement to arbitrate disputes or who fail or refuse to abide by the arbitration procedures prescribed in this Article after entering into an agreement to do so or who fail to perform an award within 10 days from the date of the rendition thereof, may be subjected to disciplinary action as provided in Article III of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII

COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared that it is the express intent of this Association in conducting any and all of its affairs to comply fully with anti-trust laws and any other state or federal laws which may pertain to an organization of this kind.

Updated: October 2011
CALIFORNIA SEED ASSOCIATION
ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE POLICY FOR MEMBERS AND STAFF

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The California Seed Association (CSA) is a trade association composed of individuals and entities regularly engaged in the buying, selling and processing of seed products. CSA has adopted the following policy statement.

As a trade association, CSA is subject to both Federal and State antitrust laws. A trade association and its members stand in the same position under the antitrust laws as any other group of persons or firms. The legality of Association activities is judged by the same standards as are applied to other business entities. CSA recognizes the need to be constantly vigilant to assure full compliance with antitrust laws. CSA endorses the principles contained in this document for its members and staff.

The purpose of the antitrust law is to preserve a competitive economy in which free enterprise can flourish. CSA insists upon compliance with the antitrust laws, both because compliance is a legal duty imposed upon all and because CSA believes that the preservation of a free, competitive economy is essential to the welfare of the nation, the seed industry, and of CSA. CSA unequivocally supports the policy of competition promoted by the antitrust laws and reiterates its intent to comply strictly with those laws.

All members of CSA and all CSA staff shall be guided by CSA’s policy of strict compliance with the antitrust laws in all CSA activities.

In an effort to insure that staff and members recognize situations which raise the appearance of an antitrust problem, this Compliance Guide shall be published annually in the CSA Directory, and reproduced and made available to the Board of Directors, Committee & Study Group chairs, Council chairs, and all speakers and non-members participating in CSA conventions, meetings, workshops, and other sponsored activities.

Meetings
1. All business meetings of the CSA, its Board of Directors, Committees, Study Groups and Councils; and all other meetings sponsored by CSA shall be scheduled by or through the CSA staff. CSA staff shall attend all meetings.
2. Secret or “rump” meetings are forbidden.
3. CSA staff shall prepare a written agenda for all business meetings of CSA, its Board of Directors, its Committees, Study Groups and its Councils. The written agendas shall be strictly followed by the Chair of the meeting.
4. Minutes of all board and committee meetings shall be taken by a member of the CSA staff, who shall accurately record the actions taken at the meeting. The minutes shall be submitted to the appropriate group for corroboration of their accuracy.
5. When appropriate, legal counsel shall be invited to be present at meetings of CSA, its Board of Directors, its Committees, Study Groups, and its Councils.
6. At social activities held at the site of CSA meetings, CSA members and staff are expected to observe the same standards required by these guidelines.

Topics of Discussion
1. CSA activities and communications may include discussion and action on matters of interest to the Industry.
2. No CSA activity or communication is intended to result in price fixing nor shall there be any discussion of prices, pricing methods, production quotas, limitations on production or sales, profits, market share, customer or credit terms, supplier classification or selection, sales territories, or distribution methods. However, nothing shall prevent CSA from publishing or communicating known published market prices of seed components.
3. No CSA activity or communication shall include discussion or action which might be construed as an attempt to prevent any person or entity from gaining access to any customer, to goods or services, to boycott any person or entity, or to prevent any person or entity from purchasing goods or services freely in the market.
4. No CSA activity or communication shall include discussion or action which might be construed as an agreement or understanding to refrain from purchasing materials, equipment, services, or other supplies from any supplier.
5. No CSA activity or communication shall include any other discussion or action which would tend to restrict competition in any manner between members or within the Industry.
6. If discussions begin which violate the guidelines above, all members of CSA and all staff members have a duty to demand that the offending discussion cease. If the offending discussions continue, CSA members and staff members must inform those engaged in the discussions that their discussions violate the policies of the CSA and antitrust laws. Thereafter, members and staff shall leave the premises and shall report the violation to the Board of Directors for appropriate action.

Other Matters
1. Guest speakers at CSA meetings and workshops shall be informed of the CSA Antitrust Compliance Guidelines and that they are required to comply with them in the preparation and presentation of materials to the CSA membership. Where appropriate, outlines and written materials may be reviewed in advance by legal counsel.
2. Handouts at meetings shall be prepared by or in consultation with CSA staff and, if appropriate, reviewed in advance by legal counsel.
California Seed Association  
Policy Development Process

1.  An issue is brought forth by either a CSA member or by CSA staff or surfaces within the CSA Board of Directors. If the issue comes up in a CSA committee then that committee will review the issue and recommend a policy to the Board of Directors and/or recommend an appropriate response or specific action relative to the issue.

2.  If a previous policy has been established on the same or a related area; there is no reason to believe the industry would view the issue in a different light than it had previously; and the officers, board of directors and/or staff believe that there is sufficient precedent which provides clear guidance as to what the association policy should be on a particular issue, CSA officers and staff proceed with acting upon said issue without further input from the board or the membership. For example, CSA has always opposed workers compensation insurance benefit increases unless there are offsetting cost-saving reforms. Therefore, CSA can and has automatically positioned against legislation that merely increases benefits without action by the board or the Legislative Committee.

3.  If the issue does not have precedent, but is straightforward and a policy direction clear, policy may be established by the Board of Directors without referring the matter to a CSA Committee.

4.  If an issue is in a new area on which CSA has not had previous policy or an issue which is deemed to be contentious and it is first identified by staff or by the Board of Directors, then such issue is generally referred to a CSA committee for review and policy recommendation. The matter will be referred to the committee or committees most related to the substance of the issue.
5. **Double Referral** - Some issues may be referred to more than one committee for review, input and recommendation.

6. Positions and recommendations on legislation, most regulatory proposals and most matters pertaining to the California Seed Law and Regulations are generally recommended by the Legislative Committee. Occasionally, a matter is referred to another CSA Committee if specific input is required from a segment of the industry (such as the Field Seed Section, the Vegetable Seed Section, Grower Shipper Liaison and Plant Health Committee, etc.).

7. In lobbying legislation, staff is often called upon to make decisions on short notice regarding amendments to legislation. Staff is permitted to make such decisions consistent with previous CSA policy. If policy direction is not clear on a particular issue and time permits, staff is to consult with the President or Legislative Committee Chair regarding CSA’s position on such matters. Staff may also need to consult with other members of CSA in order to determine association positioning on a particular matter.

8. Positions on ballot measures are generally established by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of staff although some initiatives are also reviewed and subject to recommendation by other CSA Committees.
Consumers who buy seed for planting in the marketplace today are not simply buying a product. They are paying for two things: first, there is the cost of the investment which includes people and capital resources; second, there is the cost of research and development. These activities are necessary to bring any product to market. Without either of these there would be no advancement of society. A firm invests money in the hope of realizing a profit so it can survive and continue to service its customers. Without the incentive to realize a return on investment, firms will not conduct research and new products will not be developed.

Seed companies with breeding programs need incentives to conduct research and invest human and financial resources in the development of new, improved seed varieties. The future success of California agriculture is dependent upon this process. The California Seed Association (CSA) supports the rights of owners of protected varieties of seed to realize a profit from their investments in research and development and urges growers and those in the seed industry to respect those rights. CSA also believes it is in the best interest of agriculture as a whole to abide by the spirit and the letter of the U.S. Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) and other laws protecting intellectual property rights.

CSA prides itself on promoting high standards of integrity and ethics within the association membership specifically and within the seed industry in general. CSA also urges the grower community and the public to adhere to the same high standards. This means that CSA members and others should compete on an ethical and moral basis in the marketplace. They should not look for or employ ways to evade state and federal seed laws, or the ownership protections provided by PVPA or the Patent and Trademark Laws, the California Trademark, Trade Secret, unfair competition statutes or copyright laws to gain an unethical competitive advantage in the marketplace.

Specifically, CSA does not condone and is strongly opposed to the practice of selling seed varieties without the permission of the owner.
In addition, CSA does not condone and is strongly opposed to the practice of using partnerships or joint ventures in an attempt to circumvent the “saved seed” provisions of the PVPA. The law, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States and, more recently by the U.S. Congress, permits a farmer or producer of a crop to save seed of a protected variety to plant his/her own holdings. This ruling does not authorize the use of a protected variety to produce a seed copy for propagating purposes separate from the production of that farmer’s crop itself.
INTRODUCTION/BENEFITS
Agricultural biotechnology is a broad term used for any technology used to modify biological processes. It includes plant breeding, tissue culture, marker-assisted breeding and organisms developed using recombinant DNA. For the purposes of this document “biotechnology” refers to plants developed using recombinant DNA techniques for food, fibre and fuel. Biotechnology is positively impacting agriculture and the general public in many ways. Substantial gains in farm income have been achieved for cotton, corn, soybeans, papaya, squash and canola as a result of new plant varieties developed through biotechnology. These varieties allow farmers to produce healthy foods more efficiently using fewer pesticides and less fuel. Environmental benefits resulting from biotechnology include soil and water conservation, and protection of biological diversity. Biotechnology promises to play a significant role in increasing global crop productivity to limit the growth in food prices that is particularly acute in less developed countries. Many additional nutritional, medical and environmental benefits from biotechnology are in the research and development pipeline, not only for agronomic crops, but also for horticultural, ornamental and forestry species. Biotechnology can allow California to continue to be the leader in agricultural production at a time when there is intense competition for water supplies and agricultural land.

SAFETY
The California Seed Association (CSA) agrees with the American Medical Association and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences that the use of biotechnology to improve plant varieties is as safe as traditional breeding techniques. In fact, the use of biotechnology in plant breeding may in some cases be safer than wide crosses or other traditional breeding techniques currently used. Biotechnology, particularly when combined with techniques such as marker-assisted breeding, offers more precise and more efficient means of developing new plant varieties.

CSA further believes that crops and foods produced through biotechnology are safe and equivalent to similar foods produced through traditional breeding techniques. We wish to emphasize that the US and many foreign governmental regulators, as well as many in the medical and scientific communities agree with this view. Consumers have been safely eating foods and using medicines derived from biotechnology since the early 1990s.
The CSA believes that all developers of biotechnology products should meet the requirements of overseeing regulatory agencies. The California Department of Food and Agriculture currently reviews biotechnology varieties and has done so since 1988.

LABELING

It is the position of the CSA that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) already sufficiently regulates the labeling of foods produced through biotechnology. If food produced through biotechnology or other means is different from its traditionally bred counterpart in terms of allergenicity, toxicity or nutritional composition, FDA requires additional testing and that such foods be labeled to reflect such differences. This requirement adequately protects and informs consumers. Requiring special labeling for biotechnology products and crops simply due to their method of production is misleading to the public since these products are substantially equivalent to and as safe as products produced through traditional breeding.

Requiring mandatory labels for biotechnology products is tantamount to a warning label and would discourage some consumers from buying these foods. It is the position of CSA that it is improper to place warning labels on products that are deemed as safe.

CSA also opposes the establishment of biotechnology product labeling requirements by states or other jurisdictions of government that are different than those established by the US federal government. Uniform labeling throughout the country is essential to facilitate commerce in crop products. Mandatory labeling of biotechnology products is not simply a matter of printing additional information on a label. A mandatory labeling requirement would require identity preservation from the point of purchasing seed and planting a crop, through production, harvesting, transporting, processing and distribution of that crop and derived products. It would require segregation of biotechnology commodities; the use of dedicated equipment and facilities; special cleaning of facilities and harvesting, transportation and processing equipment; and special documentation and tracking systems, all of which would result in additional costs in bringing these products to market, ultimately increasing costs to the consumer.

Existing seed labeling requirements along with additional information provided by seed companies give growers the information they need to properly use seed developed using biotechnology.
MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION

A recommendation by a seed distributor that a customer purchase a variety of seed that has characteristics of pest resistance (including insect, pathogen, nematode or herbicide resistance), whether produced through traditional breeding or biotechnology, should not be automatically deemed to be making a pesticide recommendation. Such recommendation may have been made for a variety of agronomic or marketing reasons. Those who merchandise seed have agronomic expertise that other agricultural consultants often do not.

Pest control advisors (PCA) may recommend the use of a variety of seed for pest management purposes. However, since a PCA recommendation is not required to use a pesticide, we oppose requiring a PCA recommendation or pesticide license in order to sell, buy or use a variety of seed when such varieties have characteristics of pest resistance.

CSA believes that the advent of seed enhanced by biotechnology should not materially change traditional seed warranties. As such, those selling seed should only warrant and indemnify up to the value of the seed sold if a problem arises regardless of how the seed is produced. This position should govern in the conduct of arbitrations or mediations conducted under the mandatory seed arbitration/mediation law in the California Food and Agricultural Code.

CSA believes that tolerances relating to the constituents in a lot of seed or commodity being marketed, if deemed necessary, should be science-based for all seed and commodities regardless of how such seed or commodities are produced. Additionally, it is the position of CSA that a tolerance for one commodity may not be suitable for another commodity depending on whether the crop is self-pollinated or cross-pollinated, how long a commodity has been in production in a particular area and other conditions or factors. Allowable tolerances should be based on the end-use quality requirements of the product commodity, not on the methods used to develop the crop variety.

MANDATORY CONSULTATION

The association opposes mandatory consultation between FDA and biotechnology companies in gaining approval of new biotechnology varieties. In general, FDA requires mandatory consultation only for food additives, not for any whole food products. Biotechnology foods are among the most tested and scrutinized foods on the market and all commercialized products have been evaluated by voluntary consultation with the FDA. We believe voluntary consultation has provided a high degree of protection to consumers and there are no substantiated instances to-date of any adverse health consequences due to the use of biotechnology in any crop.
STATE REGULATION
CSA opposes implementation of a separate, state approval process for varieties developed using biotechnology. A patchwork of various state and local laws governing biotechnology would impede the introduction of new varieties and would create an unequal playing field for agricultural producers in different locations.

Similarly, CSA is opposed to the imposition of planting moratoria on varieties developed using biotechnology. To do so would place California producers at a competitive disadvantage with producers in other states and countries who have access to biotechnology products. We have seen a similar economic disadvantage occur due to restricted access to pesticides in California and, as such, believe strongly that California should not impose roadblocks that would restrict introduction of this important technology. Furthermore, CSA believes that California should be a leader in the arena of biotechnology. All California consumers should have the opportunity to benefit from the economic, nutritional and environmental advancements emanating from agricultural biotechnology.

TESTING
The CSA supports scientifically validated, accurate, cost-effective and expeditious laboratory testing for biotechnology traits when necessary for assuring product quality. Stakeholders in biotechnology should have broad access to testing methods and protocols and USDA and FDA should provide research funding for development of such tests.

There should be consensus among all stakeholders as to which laboratories and what sampling and testing protocols should be utilized to provide analyses upon which disputes will be settled. CSA opposes the imposition of regulations and restrictions on biotechnology by foreign and domestic entities based upon low level presence as detected by highly sensitive tests. CSA supports the establishment of uniform thresholds for low level presence such that markets are not disrupted by the inadvertent and minute occurrence of the products of agricultural biotechnology in commodities.

CSA opposes the imposition of mandatory testing requirements of biotechnology traits for all commodities. Agricultural markets and consumers should determine when testing is necessary or warranted.

CO-EXISTENCE
The CSA supports opportunities for all segments of agriculture to address different marketing goals. In the seed industry, it is the responsibility of the producer or company to meet market standards they are supplying to. Mitigation strategies for ensuring the integrity and quality of crops in production and markets is a joint effort among stakeholders.
Issues related to isolation, cross-contamination and liability regarding crop products should be resolved first through communication and cooperation, and only if necessary through legal or judicial processes. Such incidents should be resolved by the parties involved in production of the crops. CSA supports protection against prosecution for unintended low level presence of crop contaminants.

**STEWARDSHIP**
The CSA supports development of stewardship programs to ensure the sustainability of diverse markets, as well as the introduction of novel technologies. For example, as with all production methods, pest resistance management should be carefully monitored. In cases in which resistance management is an issue, refugia, rotation of pesticides, crops and crop varieties and other production methods are effective in dealing with this concern. Determination of necessary procedures for each crop should primarily be the responsibility of the entity developing the variety in consultation with authorities. It is proper for federal agencies to require modifications to resistance management requirements when warranted by the scientific data.

Effective identity preservation programs should be developed as needed to facilitate the marketing of both biotechnology and traditionally bred commodities and seed. We support voluntary identity preservation programs offered by entities who wish to provide such services.

**AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**
CSA supports educational programming in agricultural biotechnology and urges the University of California and the Seed Biotechnology Center to continue to develop and offer courses and distribute extension information materials on this discipline. The courses and informational materials should cover major aspects regarding the production and distribution of biotechnology commodities in California.

**BIO-TERRORISM**
CSA supports criminal penalties for those committing acts of violence in order to thwart the introduction of biotechnology in agriculture and the food industry.

**CONCLUSION**
The use of biotechnology to develop, improved plant varieties offers much to the public by way of more nutritious food, a cleaner, healthier environment and a more sustainable agricultural industry. The technology brings precision to the field of plant breeding and allows for varietal improvement on an expedited basis. Public policy should support and encourage this important new technology which has already proved to be an effective new tool to increase agricultural production, reduce the use of pesticides and make more efficient use of our natural resources to protect the environment.
Statement on Human Pathogens and Seed Testing

Since 2006 significant progress has been made to prevent contamination of fresh produce and vegetables with human food borne pathogens through the development of additional safeguards for our Nation’s food supply from “the field to the dinner table.” Fruits and vegetables are essential components of a healthy diet, and CSA is in agreement that providing a safe and sound food supply, beginning with the seed, is a fundamental priority. Therefore, the seed industry continues to be vigilant by closely monitoring food safety pathogen outbreaks, evaluating and incorporating quality management systems and procedures into its seed production programs where appropriate, and monitoring ongoing research activities to help ensure that seeds do not become exposed to, or contaminated with, human pathogens.

As members of the seed industry, we believe it is important to emphasize that existing data has not shown that human pathogens are transmitted from seed planted for field or greenhouse production of fresh produce, to this produce. Therefore, the seed industry and CSA continue to believe that there is no significant value in requiring testing of these seed lots for the presence of human pathogens and that such testing would not prevent future food illnesses emanating from produce.

Procedures used to produce seed products for planting are continuously reviewed by seed industry members as new technology is developed, and these are optimized in accordance with individual company product quality and purity management strategies. Strict quality assurance and quality control procedures are applied to all seed production, and seed must meet product quality standards to be available for sale.

Knowledge and technology gaps must be bridged in order to effectively minimize the risk of future human food borne disease outbreaks, and to improve consumer confidence in fresh produce. Therefore, CSA continues to support science based research that prioritizes and focuses on areas of greatest exposure where human pathogens might enter the fresh produce supply chain. It is important that this research be a collaborative effort of industry, academic and regulatory groups, and that it produces the most practical and actionable impact on food handling and safety.
CSA SPONSORED INSURANCE PROGRAM

- COMPETITIVE PRICING FOR CSA MEMBERS ONLY
- PROPERTY, GENERAL LIABILITY, SEEDMAN’S ERRORS & OMISSIONS, AUTOMOBILE, INLAND MARINE and MACHINERY BREAKDOWN
- A XV RATED, ADMITTED INSURER
- LOW MINIMUM PREMIUM & LOW DEDUCTIBLE
- WORLD WIDE TERRITORY AVAILABLE
- VEGETABLE - FLOWER - TURF – FIELD - SEED
- EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

CONTACT CSA’S INSURANCE BROKERS:

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In addition to the CSA Property and Liability program,

InterWest offers all other types of commercial & personal insurance and employee benefits.
CALIFORNIA

SEED

ASSOCIATION

2019/2020
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Katie Otto, FFA Foundation Development Director
EMAIL ........kotto@californiaffa.org
Proper format for addressing legislative letters:

**GOVERNOR**
THE HONORABLE _______________
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

DEAR GOVERNOR ______________:

**STATE SENATOR**
THE HONORABLE _______________ _______________
CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

DEAR SENATOR ________________:

**STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER**
THE HONORABLE _______________ _______________
CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

DEAR ASSEMBLYMEMBER ________________:
# ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF PERSONNEL

~A~

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Busch, Sam ...............................................Nunhems USA
Butcher, Timothy .........................Priority Seed Production, LLC
Burleigh, Andrew .......................West Coast Seed Mill Supply Co.

~C~
Cain, Charlie ......................................Germaiens Seed Technology
Canisso, Bob ..............................................Kamprath Seeds Inc.
Cannon, Sam ...........................................Seteco
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Fernandez, Larry ........................................ VoloAgri
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Frame, Larry ................................................... Foundation Seed Program

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Gale, Wayne ................................................... Stokes Seeds
Garcia, Bobby ........................................... Germains Seed Technology
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Hawn, John ................................................... Precision Seed Coaters
Hayden, Dwayne ...................................... West Coast Seed Mill Supply Co.
Heacox, Cora ................................................... Seed Dynamics Inc
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hearne, Jim</td>
<td>L.A. Hearne Co.</td>
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<td>Satake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydick, Martin</td>
<td>Summit Seed Coatings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luttrell, Martin</td>
<td>Radicle Seed Co.</td>
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Maag, Phil .......................................................... Seedway LLC
Machado, Joe F. ........................................... Forage Genetics Int’l (America’s Alfalfa)
Mackie, Bob .......................................................... Bratney Companies
Manuel, Amy ........................................... Holaday Seed Company, Inc.
Marshburn, Dan ........................................... Seedway LLC
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Marshburn, Ashley ........................................ Seedway LLC
Marshburn, Cory ........................................ Seedway LLC
Martin, Chris .......................................................... Lark Seeds Intl’l.
Massoudi, Dr. Mark .......................................................... Ag-Biotech
Maxey, Marc .................................................. Bayer Crop Science Division
McDermott, Thomas ........................................... Seedtec (A Div. of Calif. Oils Corp.)
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Miller, Pat .......................................................... American Seed Trade Association
Mirkin, Robert ................................................ Wilke, Fleury, Hoffelt, Gould & Birney LLP
Mitchell, Rick .......................................................... Syngenta
Mizicko, John .......................................................... Eurofins BioDiagnostics
Mkandawire, Alex ............................................. California Crop Improvement Association
Mouwen, Chuck .......................................................... Ag-Biotech
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Murphy, Brooke ................................................ Germaines Seed Technology

Nelson, Chris .......................................................... Holaday Seed Co.
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Overduin, Mark ................................................ Bejo Seeds Inc.

Pafford, Trace .......................................................... American Takii, Inc.
Palmer, Dale .......................................................... Sakata Seed America
Palmer, John ............................................. California Crop Improvement Association
Palmer, John .......................................................... Foundation Seed Program
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Petersen, Gary .......................................................... HM Clause
Pflueger, Eric .......................................................... Premier Tech
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Podesto, Carlos ................................................ Bonanza Seeds Int’l., Inc.
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Prata, Thomas .......................................................... Condor Seed Production, Inc.
Pybas, Erik .......................................................... Cal Grow Seeds LLC
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Ramirez, Ernie ...........................................Holaday Seed Company, Inc.
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Reich, Dr. Jon ..................................................Alforex Seeds
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Reyes, Molly ..............................................Rubin Seeds LLC
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Richards, Scott ..................................................Gowan Seed Co., LLC
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Rubin, Ron .....................................................Rubin Seeds LLC
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Sais, Jeff ..........................................................Bayer Crop Science
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Shaddy, Tyler ......................................................Holaday Seed Co.
Shir, Asgar ..........................................................Eurofins BioDiagnostics
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Slocum, Keith .....................................................Seed Science
Slocum, Steve ......................................................Gowan Seed Co., LLC
Soden, Katy ..............................................California Crop Improvement Association
Sorrell, John ......................................................Ball Horticultural Co.
Stewart, Richard .............................................TS&L Seed Company
Stirlen, Emily ...........................................Nunhems - BASF
Stutler, Ann .....................................................Bratney Companies
Sullivan, Scott ......................................................Ag-Seeds Unlimited
Sumpter, Doug ......................................................VoloAgri
Sutton, Lance ......................................................Greenleaf Seed Co.

Talley, Bill .................................................Summit Seed Coatings
Taylor, CPCU, Michael ................................InterWest Insurance Services Inc.
Taylor, Ryan ......................................................InterWest Insurance Services Inc.
Temporini, Esteban ............................................Hazera Seeds, Inc.
Tew, Anthony (Tony) ....................................Priority Seed Production LLC
Thomas, Mike ......................................................Imperial Grain Growers
Timothy, Kim ..........................................................TS&L
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From gardens to glasshouses.
From our world to yours.

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Matt DiCori

We thank you for your efforts as you have led and helped guide the California Seed Association in your role as President for the year 2019-2020.

Your work family at Keithly-Williams Seeds wish you and the entire CSA Board of Directors and staff best wishes for success. Certainly your willingness to volunteer your time and effort, as well as express your opinions, has contributed to your being selected for the position. We wish you all the best as you represent the California Seed Association in its activities to serve our great industry and our customers in these changing times.

We are so pleased to see the Association continue to accomplish great things.

Press on towards the goal!