

# Developments for California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP)

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

#### Objectives:

- **Data-Gathering Tools & Grower Outreach:** Increase module first-time assessments and re-assessments; and drive adoption of recommended practices and technologies.
- **Accelerated Innovation Management (AIM) Tools:** Increase the adoption and ongoing use of the Irrigation Calculator and Nitrogen Calculator tools.
- **Reputation Management Tools:** Empower data-driven Almond Reputation Management objectives through statistical interpretation and enhanced reporting; and facilitate strategic planning for next Almond Community Sustainability Report.
- **Supply Chain Tools:** Demonstrate equivalency with other key market-accepted initiatives (e.g. SAI Platform FSA, etc.); and design and build an ABC-driven supply chain initiative.

#### Background and Discussion:

ABC launched the California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) in 2009. CASP has grown in scope and scale and now includes online self-assessment and confidential benchmarking of results, online nutrient and irrigation management decision support tools, the Irrigation Continuum e-module, an online tool to simplify compliance for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), a growing statistically robust data set on the adoption of practices, and the delivery of data-driven targeted education through workshops and field days,

CASP's assessment modules include irrigation management, nutrient management, air quality, energy efficiency, pest management, ecosystem management, financial management, workplace and communities; and a new Bee Health and Pollination and Irrigation Continuum e-module.

As of September 2017, more than 1,000 orchard assessments have been completed. These orchards account for more than 215,000 acres (approx. 23% of industry) and the entities that submitted assessments manage more than 454,000 acres (approx. 49% of industry). Online assessments accounted for more than 95% of all assessments completed this assessment season.

An online nitrogen budgeting calculator was added to the CASP online software platform in 2015, and an irrigation scheduling calculator in May 2016. As of September 2017, nitrogen budgets almost doubled from 225 in the previous year to 436. Recorded irrigation schedules more than doubled from 77 to 187. An accessor parcel number (APN) mapping tool is available to growers and enables them to meet the ILRP mapping requirements.

A series of four workshops were presented at several locations in 2016/17. Workshop topics were: Bee Health and Pollination, Irrigation and Nitrogen Management, Pest Management, and Harvest Dust Mitigation.

ABC is supported by strategic and technical consulting integrated with software enhancements that builds on ABC's Board of Directors strategic objectives to increase participation rates of assessments and tool use (N-Calculator, Irrigation Calculator, and Irrigation Continuum) through an improved online user experience, workshops and outreach; support Almond Reputation Management objectives through statistical interpretations; and design and pilot an ABC-driven supply chain initiative to demonstrate equivalency and reduce redundancy with key market-accepted initiatives.

**Project Cooperators and Personnel:** Julie Adams, Gabriele Ludwig, Tim Birmingham, Jenny Nicolau, Danielle Veenstra, Bob Curtis, Carissa Sauer, Spencer Cooper – ABC; Jeff Dlott, Franklin Dlott, Cliff Ohmart, Nathan Smith, Kavya Vayyasi – SureHarvest

#### For More Details, Visit

- Online at – [Almonds.com/CASP](http://Almonds.com/CASP)
- Poster location 52 Exhibit Hall A and B during the Almond Conference; or on the web (after January 2017) at [Almonds.com/ResearchDatabase](http://Almonds.com/ResearchDatabase)