

## COMMISSION ATTENDS FRUIT LOGISTICA



Executive Director, Alex Ott (back left), Director of Trade and Technical Affairs, Todd Sanders (back center) and Chargé d’Affaires, Kent Logsdon (front center), of U.S. Embassy at Fruit Logistica in Berlin.

On February 8-10, 2017, the California Blueberry Commission participated in Fruit Logistica, Berlin. Fruit Logistica is the largest fresh fruit trade show in the world. This trade show provides the Commission the unique opportunity to reach a vast audience of retailers and importers from around the world. If you would like more information or are planning to attend next year, please contact the Commission office.

## FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT IS HERE... ARE YOU READY?

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is moving forward at full speed. Under the FSMA law, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is focused on prevention and risk based food safety standards. Some key components in the mandate include: mandatory preventative controls for food facilities, mandatory produce safety standards, authority to prevent intentional contamination, mandated inspection frequency, record access, testing by accredited laboratories, greater response and enforcement, importer accountability – including third party certification, and enhanced partnerships through state, local and foreign capacity building. Currently, the Preventative Control Rule is for handlers, packers, and shippers. It is expected that the industry have these mandates in place by January 1, 2018. For additional information, please contact the Commission office.

## FORM 700’s

As outlined by CDFA and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) all Board of Directors filers must complete the necessary Form 700. Board members are now eligible to submit your Form 700 electronically through eDisclosure. To access eDisclosure system and complete your Form 700, please log on to <https://form700.fppc.ca.gov/>. Upon login, you will see a list of positions that you are required to file Form 700’s for. Once you have completed your form, the system will prompt you to electronically submit your completed Form 700. After completion, your form will be saved in your online-filing cabinet under “Previous Filings” menu.

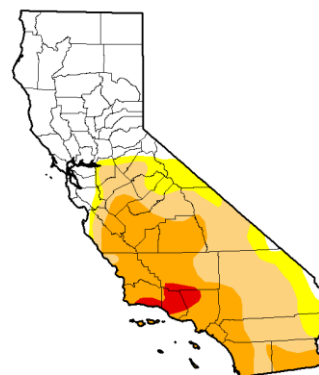
**As a reminder~ Form 700’s are due April 3, 2017.**

Should you have any problems accessing or completing your eDisclosure Form 700, please contact Rene Robertson at (916) 324-3722 or via email at [Form700@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:Form700@fppc.ca.gov) or the Commission office.

## CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

U.S. Drought Monitor  
California

January 24, 2017  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D5-D6	D7-D8	D9-D4	D4
Current	38.73	61.27	51.40	26.48	2.16	0.90
Last Week Jan 20, 2017	35.56	64.44	67.51	44.35	24.30	2.13
3 Months Ago Oct 2016	8.96	91.04	81.12	61.89	42.80	21.04
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/17	10.07	91.93	67.61	54.02	38.17	16.31
Start of Water Year 1/1/16	0.00	100.00	83.59	62.27	42.80	21.04
One Year Ago 1/24/16	0.00	100.00	95.35	86.13	63.96	40.21

**Intensity:**  
■ D0 Moderately Dry    ■ D3 Extreme Drought  
■ D1 Moderate Drought    ■ D4 Exceptional Drought  
■ D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:  
Richard Tinker  
CPC/NIAA/NWS/NCEP

  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

### Drought update as of January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The wet weather in recent weeks has been topping the news for many reasons. Governor Jerry Brown has issued state of emergency in 50 counties across California in response to the severe storms that have been occurring. These winter storms have made it possible for California to lift the designation of

“exceptional drought”. Half of the state is still experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions of which Ventura, Santa Barbara, Kern, and Los Angeles counties are the worst. Despite the improvements in snow pack and reservoir levels, groundwater aquifers, forests, and endangered fish species may require several years to recover from the drought impact. Additionally, the storms of late have Californians questioning the integrity of the Oroville Dam in Northern California, the nation’s tallest. Counties and cities in the surrounding areas of Lake Oroville have issued emergency evacuation orders due to eroded primary and emergency spillways which could result in the release of uncontrolled water. To learn more about the California drought, please visit [californiadrought.org](http://californiadrought.org).

**NEW SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE PICK  
ANNOUNCED**

The new Trump Administration has selected Sonny Perdue for U.S. Agriculture Secretary. Mr. Perdue is the former Governor of Georgia. Governor Perdue, who served at the highest office for Georgia for two terms, earned his doctorate in veterinary medicine. Once approved by the Senate, Perdue will oversee the creation of the very important 2018 farm bill. Several programs that the Commission utilizes in the Farm Bill include: Market Access Program (MAP), Technical Assistance for Specialty Crop (TASC), Emerging Market Program (EMP), and Specialty Crop Block Grant dollars. The Commission will continue to work with the new administration to ensure that these programs continue. The Commission staff will update the industry as the

Farm Bill makes its way through the legislative process.

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**BLUEBERRY BITES**

**California Blueberry Honey Bee Cocktail**

- 2 cups frozen California blueberries
- 4 ounces light rum (optional)
- 1 ½ cups water
- 1 ½ tablespoons honey
- 1 ounce lemon juice

**Directions**

1. Make a simple syrup with the ¾ cup of honey and ¾ water.
2. In a shaker, muddle California blueberries. Fill with ice and add rum (optional), lemon juice, and 1 tablespoon simple syrup.
3. Shake and strain into a chilled cup.

Recipe courtesy of: <http://www.blueberrycouncil.org>

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- **NABC/USHBC Meeting**  
-Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017  
-Location: Phoenix, AZ
- **Capitol Hill Day**  
-Date: March 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
-Location: Washington, D.C.



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