

California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association



November 5, 2018

CACASA DC Delegation:

Congratulations on being selected to represent CACASA in our nation's capital, Washington, D.C., March 4 – March 8, 2019! Here is our 2019 DC Delegation:

Ruben Arroyo, Riverside	ruarroyo@rivco.org
Sandy Elles, CACASA	selles@cacasa.org
Tim Pelican, San Joaquin	tpelican@sigo.gov
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Steve Scheer, Yuba	sscheer@co.yuba.ca.us
Louie Mendoza, Butte	lmendoza@buttecounty.net

We appreciate you making the commitment of time and energy necessary for this trip on behalf of the CACASA Membership. Those that have attended in the past, know this trip is a lot of work but, we also endeavor to make it enjoyable and we always strengthen our relationships.

This program has been popular with CACASA and our desire is to give members the experience and opportunity to participate. This year we have decided to maintain the delegation at 10 delegates with four "first time" delegates and the rest having some past experience. It is important that we anticipate, monitor and track all expenses associated with this trip. This includes both the costs reimbursed by CACASA and any costs you pass on to your county. CACASA maintains a budget of \$12,000 for this event and we will provide an expense reimbursement form to help you capture this vital financial information.

Meetings in DC will be planned for four full days starting Monday, March 4th and continuing through Thursday, March 7th. This will allow about four months for us to prepare. We will need to request and schedule meetings and to research, edit, and approve our ~ 15-20 fact sheets. It is critical that we (individually and collectively) stay on top of our obligations in preparation for the trip (travel arrangements, meeting requests, Fact Sheet assignments, etc.)

This year accommodations are as follows:

Embassy Suites Washington, DC Convention Center
900 10th Street NW,
Washington, District of Columbia, 20001,
Phone 202-739-2001
Check-In Date: Sunday, March 3rd at 3:00 pm
Check-Out Date: Friday, March 8th at 12 (noon)

Hotel accommodations are already set but, it will be your responsibility to make airline arrangements. There are three airports that service Washington, D.C. – Reagan-National (DCA), Dulles (IAD), and Baltimore-Washington (BWI). For travel-planning purposes, please note that we will hold a kick-off dinner meeting scheduled for

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Sunday, March 3rd at 6:30 p.m. (pending). So, please plan your in-bound flight accordingly, allowing sufficient time to arrive, collect luggage and have sufficient travel time from airport to hotel (~ 45 min). We want to schedule arrival and departure times so that we can coordinate shared ground transportation to & from airports. Please send flight itinerary (once confirmed) to Louie Mendoza and Tim Cansler. Cansler Consulting will cover your ground transportation; details on that will be provided closer to your arrival date. Please begin looking at flight options immediately; naturally, if Tim or I can help, please let us know.

Please also provide us your cell number as it will be listed on the itinerary. Make sure you capture everyone else's cell number on your phone; this will be extremely valuable during the trip.

We will also hold a closing dinner on Thursday, March 7th at Fogo de Chao at 7 p.m.

We will schedule a few conference calls in the coming weeks. The first conference call is scheduled for **the week of November 12th (date/time pending...)**. The second conference call will be **scheduled the week of December 3rd or 10th and then periodically after January 1st, 2019.** Do not worry if you cannot make the calls, we can brief everyone after-the-fact. Please do NOT wait for our conference call(s) if you have any travel/flight questions.

Please be aware that meetings typically begin by 9:00a.m. and the last meeting can be as late as 5:00p.m. Meetings will be held at House and Senate office buildings on Capitol Hill and agency offices (USDA, OMB, CBP, EPA, etc.) off the Hill and often back and forth. We will typically meet for breakfast each morning at the hotel to confirm assignments and finalize plans for the day.

House and Senate offices and agency buildings all have security checkpoints (with metal detectors), so please be cognizant of carrying loose change and wearing large belt buckles, jewelry, etc. The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Custom Border Patrol, US-EPA, and the Majority Leader's office all have additional security checkpoints where government issued photo I.D. is required. OMB also requires a background check prior to our appointment. You will be asked to provide information to them, including a social security number, to be cleared before attending the meeting. We will call on you soon to provide this information.

Given all of this, please:

- Wear comfortable shoes, we walk a lot.
- Bring at least 100 business cards.
- Have cash available for taxis between meetings. Most drivers accept credit cards. In some cases we can use Uber.
- Always have a government issued photo I.D.

Again, congratulations and thank you for participating. We expect this to be a productive and valuable trip for each of you and for our Association.

Sincerely,

Louie Mendoza

Louie Mendoza
CACASA DC Subcommittee Chairman

&

Tim Cansler

Tim Cansler
Federal Legislative Advocate