



April 4, 2022

## **ALMOND ALLIANCE REQUESTS SECRETARIAL DISASTER DESIGNATION FOR CALIFORNIA COUNTIES IMPACTED BY FEBRUARY FREEZE**

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA — Today, the Almond Alliance of California requested a Secretarial Disaster Designation for California counties that suffered damages and loss as a result of the freeze and frost events that occurred the week of February 25, 2022.

In a letter to Blong Xiong, State Executive Director of USDA California Farm Service Agency, Almond Alliance president and chief executive officer, Aubrey Bettencourt, addressed the significant damage across the almond community.

“This freeze may be the last straw for many almond growers; especially our uninsured, small and underserved growers and communities,” Bettencourt said. “With supply chain disruption resulting in price degradation, geopolitical conflicts generating further uncertainty for parts & materials, compounded by this being the driest year in a century, the cost of inputs to keep what's left of this crop will surely make or break many in our industry. The sooner we can facilitate what assistance is available, the better chance we have to continue to work together for solutions to these larger issues.”

The greatest damages from the February freeze were reported in Sacramento Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta counties. Since, the Almond Alliance has been in communication with the 13 almond growing county ag commissioners, as well as California Department of Food and Agriculture to provide support as they gather and report information to California Office of Emergency Services.

### *About the Almond Alliance*

*The Almond Alliance of California (AAC) is a trusted non-profit organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of the California almond community. California almonds generate more than \$21 billion in economic revenue and directly contribute more than \$11 billion to the state's total economy. California's top agricultural export, almonds create approximately 104,000 jobs statewide, over 97,000 in the Central Valley, which suffers from chronic unemployment. The AAC is dedicated to educating state legislators, policy makers and regulatory officials about the California almond community. As a membership-based organization, our members include almond processors,*



*hullers/shellers, growers and allied businesses. Through workshops, newsletters, conferences, social media and personal meetings, AAC works to raise awareness, knowledge and provide a better understanding about the scope, size, value and sustainability of the California almond community. For more information on the Almond Alliance, visit <https://almondalliance.org/> or check out the Almond Alliance on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.*

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