

## **APPENDIX 8 – EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD (November 2012)**

**Current members** (in alphabetical order):

**Marcus Benedetti**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Clover Stornetta Farms, Petaluma, CA

**Ashley Boren\***, Executive Director, Sustainable Conservation, San Francisco, CA

**John Diener**, President, Red Rock Ranch, Five Points, CA

**Michael Dimock**, Executive Director, Roots of Change, San Francisco, CA

**Greg Drescher**, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives & Industry Leadership, Culinary Institute of America, St. Helena, CA

**Cornelius Gallagher**, Senior Vice President, Food, Agriculture and Wine Executive, Bank of America, Roseville, CA

**Martha Guzman Aceves**, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Sacramento, CA

**Carl Johnson**, Executive Vice President, Brands, Del Monte Foods, San Francisco, CA

**Jonathan Kaplan**, Senior Policy Specialist at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), San Francisco, CA

**AG Kawamura**, Founding Member, Orange County Produce, Irvine, CA, and former Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA

**Craig McNamara**, President, California State Board of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA; President, Sierra Orchards; and Co-Founder, Center for Land Based Learning, Winters, CA

**Haider Nazar**, Chief Executive Officer, Verliant Energy Partners, Walnut Creek, CA

**Amparo Perez-Lemus**, AP Lemus & Associates Marketing and Public Relations, Davis, CA

**Judith Redmond**, Owner and Partner, Full Belly Farm, Guinda, CA

**Richard Rominger\***, Rominger Farms, Winters, CA

**Karen Ross**, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA

**Howard-Yana Shapiro\***, Director, Plant Science & External Research, Mars Inc, and Co-founder, Seeds of Change, McLean, VA and Davis, CA; ASI Board Chair

**Rachel Surls**, Sustainable Food Systems Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA

**Thomas Turini**, Vegetable Crops Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension Fresno County, Fresno, CA

**Nita Vail**, Chief Executive Officer, California Rangeland Trust, Sacramento, CA

**Paul Wenger**, President, California Farm Bureau Federation, and farmer, Modesto, CA

\* indicates members of the Executive Committee

**Ex officio members** (in alphabetical order):

**Barbara Allen-Diaz**, Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, Oakland, CA

**Mary Delany**, Interim Dean, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis

**Katharina Ullmann**, Student Representative, UC Davis Graduate Student, Department of Entomology

**David Wehner**, Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

**Kase Wheatley**, Student Representative, UC Davis Undergraduate, Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems

**Emeriti members (2008-2012)** (in alphabetical order):

**Daniel M. Dooley**, Senior Vice President, External Relations, UC Office of the President; and Special Advisor, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, Oakland, CA

**Mable Everette**, CEO and Founder, Community Nutrition Education Services, and 2007 Roots of Change Leadership Fellow, Inglewood, CA

**Michael Pollan**, Contributing writer to the *New York Times*, author, and Knight Professor of Science and Environmental Journalism, University of California, Berkeley, CA

**Jennifer Ryder Fox**, Dean, College of Agriculture, California State University, Chico

**Neal Van Alfen**, Dean Emeritus and Professor, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis

**Former Student Representatives (2008-2012)** (in alphabetical order):

**Janaki Jagannath**, UC Davis Students for Sustainable Agriculture

**Maggie Lickter**, UC Davis Students for Sustainable Agriculture

**Meredith Niles**, UC Davis Ecology Graduate Group

**Margaret Worthington**, UC Davis International Agricultural Development Graduate Group

**Current Member Biographies**

**Barbara Allen-Diaz**

**Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources**



Barbara Allen-Diaz was appointed vice president – agriculture and natural resources September 15, 2011. As systemwide vice president for the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), Allen-Diaz leads a statewide research and public service organization responsible for activities in agriculture, natural resources, environmental sciences, family and consumer sciences, forestry, human and community development, 4-H/ youth development and related areas.

In the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Allen-Diaz served as associate vice president-Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives since 2009 and as assistant vice president-programs from 2007 to 2009. She is currently on leave from her position as a tenured faculty member in the College of Natural Resources on the Berkeley campus, where she has worked since 1986. She also holds the prestigious Russell Rustici Chair in Rangeland Management. Allen-Diaz was among 2,000 scientists recognized for their work on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to the IPCC and Vice President Al Gore in 2007. Allen-Diaz's contributions focused on the effects of climate change on rangeland species and landscapes. She has authored more than 160 research articles and presentations and is an active participant in her professional society; she has served on its board of directors and on various government panels. Allen-Diaz earned a B.A. in anthropology, an M.S. in range management and a Ph.D. in wildland resource sciences, all from UC Berkeley.

## **Marcus Benedetti**

**President & Chief Executive Officer, Clover Stornetta Farms**



Marcus Benedetti was born and raised in Petaluma, and attended St. Vincent grammar and high schools. Marcus continued his education in Alaska where he pursued a degree in Business Administration at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Upon graduation he returned to Petaluma where he started his work at Clover. Marcus started at Clover full time in the chilled warehouse in 2000. He moved on to a route delivering milk to schools, then later products to restaurants in the Sonoma area. As a sales representative he called on accounts in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, and as demand for Clover products grew, he looked forward to helping get

Clover established in new markets like Sacramento and the L.A. basin. Marcus became President in January 2006 and Chief Executive Officer in January 2011.

## **Ashley Boren**

**Executive Director, Sustainable Conservation**



Ashley Boren is executive director of Sustainable Conservation, an environmental nonprofit organization that partners with business and other stakeholders to find environmental solutions that make economic sense. Sustainable Conservation believes protecting the environment can also be good for business. The organization's climate, air, water and biodiversity initiatives promote practical solutions that produce tangible, lasting benefits for California. Founded in 1993, Sustainable Conservation's effectiveness lies in building strong partnerships with business, agriculture and government – and establishing models for environmental and economic sustainability that can be replicated across California and beyond. Ashley

received a 2007 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for her "unwavering commitment to innovative, balanced problem-solving to address a variety of critical environmental problems facing California."

Ashley has directed the strategy, growth and operations of Sustainable Conservation since 1997. Prior to Sustainable Conservation, Ashley spent eight years at Smith & Hawken, a mail order and retail gardening company, where she worked in finance, new business development,

inventory planning and retail merchandising. She began her career at The Nature Conservancy in program development and fundraising. In addition to her work at Sustainable Conservation, Ashley serves on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture and as an Independent Trustee of Marketocracy. Ashley previously served as Trustee and Chair of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation and as a Board member and Chair of Stanford Business School's Alumni Consulting Team. Ashley has a BA in human biology, an MA in applied economics and an MBA from Stanford University.

## **Mary Delany**

### **Interim Dean, UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**



Mary Delany was named Interim Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis in September 2012. The college conducts mission-oriented research in agricultural, environmental and human sciences. More than 300 faculty including professors and specialists in cooperative extension work in multidisciplinary teams employing fundamental, translational and applied research to discover and extend new knowledge and to solve problems. In addition the college through its departments delivers undergraduate curricula to more than 6000 students educated within 27 different majors. The college houses cross-cutting centers and institutes in related areas. Mary is a poultry geneticist and she joined the UC Davis faculty in 1995 with joint appointments in the departments of Avian Sciences and Animal Science (the departments merged in 1997). She chaired the Department of Animal Science from 2005 to 2009 and served as an associate dean in the college since 2009. She holds the John and Joan Fiddyment Endowed Chair in Agriculture. She is a distinguished researcher whose work is important to animal science, animal and human health. She has served on the board of directors of the Poultry Science Association and a number of editorial review boards as well as academic review committees for land grant institutions. She chaired the Federation of Animal Science Societies Science Policy Committee. She was a member of the International Chicken Genome Sequencing Consortium and her work in poultry and avian genetics, genomics and developmental biology has been published in Nature and Science as well as other high impact disciplinary journals. She received her bachelor's degree in biology from Montclair State College (N.J.), and earned master's and doctoral degrees in animal genetics from Cornell University (N.Y.).

## **John Diener**

### **President, Red Rock Ranch**

John started farming for himself on the Westside in 1980. Today, he farms both conventional and organic land. John has extensive experience growing fresh-market crops, however his current focus is on growing processing crops for the cannery and various agronomic crops for certified seed production. John has been very active in conservation and reclamation efforts. He developed a pilot Integrated On-Farm Drainage Management prototype (1985 to present). By tiling saline land and recycling water through a series of fields, farmers can reclaim land, harvest runoff water, produce marketable crops, and ultimately mine salts for commercial use.

**Michael Dimock**  
**Executive Director, Roots of Change**



Michael Dimock is Executive Director of Roots of Change Fund, which develops and provides resources to a network of leaders and institutions in California collaborating in pursuit of a sustainable food system. He previously was a marketing executive in Europe for agribusiness, farmed organically for three years in Sonoma County, and in 1992 founded Ag Innovations Network, where he began his work on community consensus building and strategic planning to create healthier food and agriculture. From 2002 to 2007 he was Chairman of Slow Food USA and a member of Slow Food International's board of directors. Michael's love for food systems grew from experience on an 11,000-acre cattle ranch in Santa Clara County in the late 1960s and a development project with Himalayan subsistence farmers in Nepal in the late 70s. He has worked in television and film production and was a political advancement for California Governor Jerry Brown. He received a BA in History with Honors at UCLA in 1983 and a Masters in International Affairs at Columbia University in 1988.

**Greg Drescher**  
**Vice President, Strategic Initiatives & Industry Leadership, Culinary Institute of America**



Greg Drescher is Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Industry Leadership and creator of the college's influential Worlds of Flavor International Conference & Festival, annual Worlds of Healthy Flavors Leadership Retreat presented in partnership with the Harvard School of Public Health, and other CIA "think tank" initiatives. In 2005, Mr. Drescher was inducted into the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America. The following year, he was honored with Food Arts magazine's Silver Spoon Award, and in 2007 shared a James Beard Award for his work in developing the CIA's Savoring the Best of World Flavors DVD and Web cast series.

**Cornelius Gallagher**  
**Senior Vice President, Food, Agriculture and Wine Executive, Bank of America**



Cornelius (Corny) Gallagher is the national Food, Agriculture and Wine Executive for Bank of America Merrill Lynch. He is a member of a bank wide team that coordinates management of the Bank's \$28 billion agriculture, wine and food products portfolio. Gallagher represents the Bank of America on numerous state and national agricultural leadership committees, boards and advisory councils. He was reappointed by Governor Brown to the California Exposition and State Fair Board of Directors and is a commissioner on the UC President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources. He joined the Bank 43 years ago and has served the agricultural industry for all of his life.



## **Martha Guzman Aceves**

**Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.**



Martha Guzman Aceves is the Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. She has also served as Legislative Advocate for the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation in Sacramento, focusing on farm worker health and safety issues, and environmental justice, including environmental and occupational hazards of heat-related illness and pesticide exposure. In 2003, she served as the Legislative Coordinator for the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, covering a range of labor and environmental issues. She is currently a member of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, and a board member of Ag Innovations Network, Sierra Institute and Community to Community Development. She was a gubernatorial-appointed member to the California Water Commission, a member of the California Agricultural Leadership Program, and on the board of directors for the North American Pesticides Action Network.

## **Carl Johnson**

**Executive Vice President, Brands, Del Monte Foods**



Carl is Executive Vice President, Brands, of Del Monte Foods, with responsibility for the company's pet brands and the majority of its consumer brands, marketing and consumer insights groups, marketing services, research & development, and innovation. He is a former Senior Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer for Campbell Soup Company, with responsibility for corporate strategy, global research & development/quality, corporate marketing services, corporate licensing and e-business. Prior to Campbell, he ran three successively larger multi-billion dollar divisions at Kraft Foods. Before Kraft, he led the Consumer Goods consulting practice at Marketing Corporation of America. Earlier, he held senior management positions at Polaroid and Colgate-Palmolive. Carl is a Trustee of the Adelphic Educational Fund, Wesleyan University. He is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Kilts Center for Marketing at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

## **Jonathan Kaplan**

**Senior Policy Specialist, Natural Resources Defense Council**



Jonathan Kaplan is a Senior Policy Specialist at the Natural Resources Defense Council where he works to advance more sustainable food and agricultural systems. For more than fifteen years, Jonathan has launched policy and market-facing initiatives to reduce dependence on toxic chemicals, protect water quality, foster Integrated Pest Management and promote more sustainable food production. Most recently, Jonathan joined with produce industry leaders to cofound the Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops, an unprecedented collaboration of growers, food buyers and NGOs now working to develop sustainability metrics for the nation's fruit and vegetable sector. In 2004, Jonathan helped launch the California Roundtable on Agriculture

and the Environment, a 7-year-running alliance of California's most influential agricultural and environmental organizations. Prior to joining NRDC, Jonathan directed programs at San Francisco BayKeeper and Environment California, leading regulatory, legislative and public outreach initiatives addressing pesticides and other pollutants. Jonathan serves on numerous related boards and advisory groups serving academic, government and non-profit organizations. He has a Master of Environmental Management degree from Yale University and a B.A. in English from Cornell University.

### **A.G. Kawamura**

**Founding Member, Orange County Produce; Former Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture**



Governor Schwarzenegger appointed A.G. Kawamura as secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in November 2003. Secretary Kawamura is a produce grower and shipper from Orange County, where his family grows strawberries, green beans and other specialty crops. Secretary Kawamura is widely known for his passion for education and for his commitment to the issues of hunger and nutrition. As president of Orange County Harvest, a non-profit promoting agricultural partnerships with organizations combating hunger, he arranged for thousands of volunteers to harvest and glean over a million pounds of produce for area food banks. His nationally recognized urban projects, such as the 7-acre Common Ground project in San Juan Capistrano and 4-acre Incredible Edible Park in Irvine, are agricultural paradigms linking nutritional education and interaction with local schools and food banks.

### **Craig McNamara**

**President, California State Board of Food and Agriculture; President, Sierra Orchards; Co-Founder, Center for Land-Based Learning**



Craig McNamara is the president of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. He is also the president and owner of Sierra Orchards, a diversified farming operation that includes field, processing, and marketing operations, producing primarily walnuts. He also serves as the founder and president of the Center for Land-Based Learning. The goal of this innovative program is to assist high school students in becoming lifelong learners, overcoming barriers to change, and building greater social and human capital in their communities. Craig is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program and a Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum. His professional activities include: member of the Foundation Board of Trustees, University of California Merced, and University of California Davis Dean's Advisory Council. He is the recipient of several awards including the Leopold Conservation Award, the 2003 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, the UC Davis Award of Distinction, and the Profile in Leadership Award.

**Haider Nazar**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Verliant Energy Partners**



Haider is the CEO of Verliant Energy Partners, a leading developer of bioenergy power projects for utilities and large energy users. Verliant Energy is using proven technology to cost effectively meet rising energy demand while simultaneously providing attractive partnership opportunities for the farming community. Prior to Verliant Energy, Haider was CEO of Kemco Manufacturing, serving large-scale commercial and government customers. Under his leadership, the company increased project backlog fivefold, won Managing Automation's Manufacturer of the Year Award, the Department of Defense Nunn Perry Award and attained ISO 9001/AS 9100 certification. His previous experience includes leadership roles for high tech startups and Fortune 500 companies including Accenture, Crossworlds (acquired by IBM) and Informative (acquired by Satmetrix). Haider has experience in business development, marketing, sales, corporate development, offshore development, government regulatory compliance and operations serving such clients as PG&E, Autodesk, Boeing, DOD and Lockheed Martin.

Currently, Haider is a general partner at Full Throttle Ventures, where he leads their Renewable Energy initiatives. He serves on the Advisory Board of the UC Davis Agriculture Sustainability Institute (ASI) and two privately held companies.

**Amparo Perez-Lemus**  
**AP Lemus & Associates**



Amparo currently works at AP Lemus & Associates Marketing and Public Relations, Hispanic marketing specialists focusing on reaching the Latino community. She is also owner of Body, Soul & Wealth, helping others create true prosperity with LifeVantage. She previously was Vice President and General Manager, Bustos Media, LLC.

**Judith Redmond**  
**Owner and Partner, Full Belly Farm**



Judith grew up in California and earned a Masters of Science Degree from the University of California, Davis with a specialty in biological control of plant pathogens. She is one of four owners of Full Belly Farm, a 350-acre certified organic farm in Yolo County growing vegetables, fruits, nuts, and flowers. In addition, the farm offers a number of educational programs, including internships, kids' camps, school visits, and the annual Hoes Down Harvest Festival. Judith has been involved as an advocate for family farming on numerous agricultural policy issues and serves on the Advisory Board of AGree (a national initiative to transform US food and agriculture policy), the Executive Committee of the Community Alliance with Family



Farmers and the Advisory Committee California Climate and Agriculture Network. She is also a Fire Commissioner with the Capay Valley Fire District.

## **Richard Rominger**



Richard E. Rominger is a fourth generation Yolo County California farmer. His children now operate the farm, growing alfalfa, barley, beans, corn, native grass seed, oats, onion seed, rice, safflower, sunflowers, tomatoes, wheat, and wine grapes for budwood, rootstock and wine. Some of the crops are grown organically. Rich, active in farm organizations and cooperatives, served six years as Director (Secretary) of the California Department of Food and Agriculture from 1977 through 1982. He was the Deputy Secretary (the number two position) at the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC from 1993 to 2001. Then for three years he was Advisor on Production Agriculture to the University of California (UC)

Davis, UC Riverside, California State University Fresno, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. At UC Davis, he continues to serve as a Special Advisor to the Chancellor, on the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean's Advisory Council, and on the Advisory Council of the new Agricultural Sustainability Institute. He is a member of the University of California President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment. He recently completed service on the board of directors of the American Farmland Trust, and the Roots of Change Council. He also recently completed a term on the Board of Regents of the University of California representing alumni, and as president of the Alumni Associations of the University of California. He previously served on the board of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association and the UC Davis Foundation. He also previously served on the California Board of Food and Agriculture, the Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET), the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences, the California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom, the California Rice Research Board, the Yolo County Water Resources Board, the UC Agricultural Issues Center, and was founding President of the Yolo Land Trust. He is Chairman of Marrone Bio Innovations, a start-up company developing natural, organic bio-pesticides.

## **Karen Ross**

**Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture**



Karen Ross was appointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 2011 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Secretary Ross has deep leadership experience in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and here in California. Prior to joining CDFA, Secretary Ross was chief of staff for US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a position she accepted in 2009. Before her time at the United States Department of Agriculture, Secretary Ross served more than 13 years as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), based in Sacramento. During that same period she served as the Executive Director of Winegrape Growers of America, a coalition of state winegrower organizations, and as Executive Director of the California Wine

Grape Growers Foundation, which sponsors scholarships for the children of vineyard employees. Among Secretary Ross' many achievements at CAWG was the creation of the nationally recognized Sustainable Winegrowing Program, which assists wine grape growers in maintaining the long-term viability of agricultural lands and encourages them to provide

leadership in protecting the environment, conserving natural resources, and enhancing their local communities.

## **Howard-Yana Shapiro**

**Global Director, Plant Science & External Research, Mars Incorporated**  
**Co-founder, Seeds of Change**



Howard-Yana Shapiro has been involved with sustainable agricultural and tree cropping systems for over thirty five years with projects in the USA, the EU, Mexico & Latin America (Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, Costa Rica), South America (Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia), West Africa (Ghana, Cameroon, Ivory Coast) and South East Asia (Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, The Philippines, Indonesia, Viet Nam). A two-time Ford Foundation Fellow, Fulbright Scholar, and recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Award, he is a former university professor and was the VP, Agriculture, for Seeds of Change, an organic seed and food company. Mars, Incorporated purchased Seeds of Change in 1997, and since then he has served as Senior Scientist in Plant Science, Agroforestry and Agroecology for M&M, Mars, Research Manager, Plant Science and Agroforestry, M&M/Mars and currently as Global Director Plant Science and External Research, Mars, Incorporated. In 2006 he organized the Future of Cacao Symposia at the National Academy of Science and Co-Chaired the 1st World Congress of Agroforestry, a role he continues for the 2nd World Congress of Agroforestry in 2009. In 2008 he was appointed to lead an international consortium including Mars, Incorporated, The USDA-ARS and IBM to sequence and assemble the *Theobroma l.cacao* genome. He the author of three books and is currently co-editing *Chocolate: Heritage of the Americas*; *The Science of Theobroma l. cacao: Botany, Chemistry & Medicine*; and *The Future of Agroforestry and Landuse Globally*. He has presented at over 200 meetings and is widely quoted in the press, on radio and TV. He currently holds an appointment as Adjunct Professor in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis.

## **Rachel Surls**

**Sustainable Food Systems Advisor for UC Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles County**



Rachel Surls is the Sustainable Food Systems Advisor for University of California Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles County. Cooperative Extension is part of the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. As part of her role with UC ANR, she is leading a team to study the emerging urban agriculture movement in California, assessing the needs of this audience, creating educational resources, and developing best practice recommendations for urban agriculture policy at the municipal level. She is currently a member of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, and through the Council has been actively engaged in working with the City of Los Angeles to formulate urban agriculture policy. Rachel is a long-time UC ANR staff member and has served in several capacities. She was County Director for Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles from 1997-2011, and Urban Horticulture Advisor in Los Angeles County from 1994-1997. She has been active in supporting school and community gardening in the Los Angeles area since joining Cooperative Extension as a

Program Representative with Cooperative Extension's Urban Garden Program in 1988. She earned her BS in agronomy at Virginia Tech, her MS in Agricultural Sciences at Cal Poly, Pomona, and a Ph.D. in Education from Claremont Graduate University. Rachel is a former Peace Corps Volunteer and parent of two teenage boys.

### **Thomas Turini**

**Vegetable Crops Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Fresno County**



Tom Turini is the vegetable crops Farm Advisor for Fresno County where he has served since 2007. His research and extension program addresses management of tomatoes, garlic, onions, melons and lettuce in large-scale agricultural operations in the county. A few irrigation projects currently being addressed in his research program includes management of high yielding drip-irrigated processing tomatoes with lower quality ground water, and alternative bed and drip irrigation configuration for production of processing tomatoes. Pest management projects being addressed include epidemiology and control of Tomato spotted wilt virus and management of white rot of drip-irrigated garlic and through the use of site specific management. He has

served as UC liaison for the California Garlic and Onion Research Advisory Board for 3 years. Prior to taking his current position, he served as the Imperial County plant pathology advisor since 1999. He received both a BS and MS from California State University, Fresno in Plant Science.

### **Katharina Ullman**

**Student Representative, UC Davis Graduate Student, Department of Entomology**



Katharina Ullmann is a PhD candidate in the Dept of Entomology at UC Davis where she is developing practical tools farmers can use to enhance the diversity of pollinators they rely on. Prior to starting graduate school Katharina worked for the Xerces Society conducting research and developing an outreach program focused on California's crop pollinators. She also worked as the Director of Science and Watershed Education at the Telluride Institute and Pinhead Institute in southwestern Colorado. Katharina's interest in sustainable agriculture took root during her undergraduate summers and a gap year when

she worked on farms in America and Europe. She has a BSc in Biology from the University of St Andrews.

### **Nita Vail**

**Chief Executive Officer, California Rangeland Trust**



Nita Vail is Chief Executive Officer of the California Rangeland Trust, a position she has held since September 2001. She is a founding Board member of the organization and has a background in agribusiness, policy and environmental consulting. Nita, a fourth-generation rancher, was brought up in the Vail & Vickers ranching tradition on Santa Rosa Island. She was appointed by Governor Wilson in 1994 to serve as Assistant Secretary of Agricultural and Environmental Policy for the California Department of Food and Agriculture under Secretary Ann Veneman. She

has worked with diverse agribusinesses, including Foster Farms, Idetek and Cattle-Fax, a

Denver-based cattle market information service. Nita received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Agricultural Business Management from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA and her MBA from University of Santa Clara, Institute of Agribusiness in Santa Clara, CA. Nita is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program, Class XXI and a 2010 recipient of the Irvine Foundation Leadership Award. She serves on numerous Advisory Boards including California State Fair Ag Advisory Board, Cal Poly SLO Animal Science Advisory Board, Santa Cruz Island Foundation Advisory Board and Ag Sustainability Institute at UC Davis External Advisory Board.

## **Paul Wenger**

**President, California Farm Bureau Federation; Farmer**



Paul Wenger is President of the California Farm Bureau Federation. Wenger, who farms in Modesto, became a statewide officer in 1997 when he was elected second vice president, and became first vice president in 2005. A third-generation farmer, Wenger farms almonds and walnuts on the family farm, which includes property purchased by his grandfather in 1910. His farming operations also include sharecropping, custom farm work and walnut hulling. He has expanded his operation to include processing and marketing of almonds and walnuts through his Wood Colony Nut Co., to provide an opportunity for the fourth generation of the family to vertically

integrate into the family farming operation. Wenger has been active in community affairs, serving on the Salida Volunteer Fire Department, the Hart-Ransom School Board of Trustees, and the Stanislaus Land Trust and Agricultural Pavilion boards.

## **Kase Wheatley**

**Student Representative, UC Davis Undergraduate Student, Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems**



Kase Wheatley is a 4<sup>th</sup> year Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems major. He is part of the Domes at Baggins End, a cooperative community at UC Davis located near the Student Farm. Through his time at the University and at the Domes, Kase has found that in order for decisions to be made with everybody in mind, they have to be made from the bottom up. Kase is passionate about food, agriculture, and the ways different people intersect in these fields.