

Meeting Notes



Location: NRCS Fresno Office
Date: 1/30/24
Time: 1:00PM
Facilitator: NRCS Fresno/Erwin Duenas

Attendees:

- Carlos Suarez- State Conservationist
- Johnnie Siliznoff- Area 3 Assistant State Conservationist
- Erwin Duenas- Fresno Field Office District Conservationist
- Arshdeep Singh- Executive Director PAGG
- Amrik Singh Basra- Executive PAGG
- Theresa Barajas- FSA
- Phen Vue- California Highlander Cooperative
- Steve Haze- Tranquility RCD
- Kelly Kucharski- Sierra RCD
- Dr Rolston – Dean CSUF
- Dr Fayzul Pasha – CSUF Chair Lyles College of Engineering
- Kassy Chauhan – Executive Officer North Kings GSA
- Lilian Thaoxaochay – Lead UC Extension

1. Discussion Topics

NRCS review of partnership work with all parties which are engaged with Fresno Office.

2. Notes

Punjabi American Growers Group –
Arshdeep Singh raised following:

- The lack of resources and assistance from USDA/NRCS in current climate for Punjabi Farmers.
- NRCS staff shortages which are impacting community programs.
- NRCS partnership with PAGG is a great initiative and needed to expand on various fronts to help the current/future challenges.
- Lack of voice of Punjabi growers at the policy/decision making level.
- Carlos S is working on 3-year plan (2025-28) for the State of California. PAGG offered to partner on every project or detail and help at no cost for future work with NRCS.

Arsh talk Notes:

I appreciated the work NRCS team is doing with Punjabi growers across the board. I mentioned the great work Dayadeepak Singh, Chu Yang and Sam Vang are doing with PAGG.

But I delivered a very strong and clear message that our community needs more assistance from USDA/NRCS. Carlos acknowledged the challenges and showed great willingness to work with PAGG and for our community. Steve from Tranquility RCD, Dr Rolston, Dr Pasha, and Kassy Chauhan put great words for PAGG during the meeting which was good feedback for all of us.
