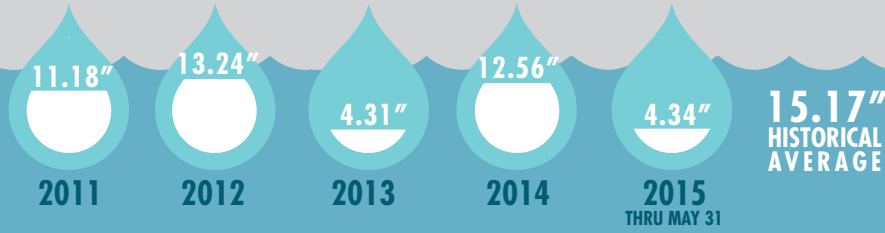


# OAKDALE AREA RAINFALL

(JAN. 1 - DEC. 31)



## STATEWIDE WATER USAGE



# IN

## TRINITAS FARMING'S

# 6,400 ACRES

are part of the Oakdale Irrigation District and have access to surface water.



## TRINITAS FARMING

97% OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS LIVE IN STANISLAUS, SAN JOAQUIN AND MERCED COUNTIES

# OUT

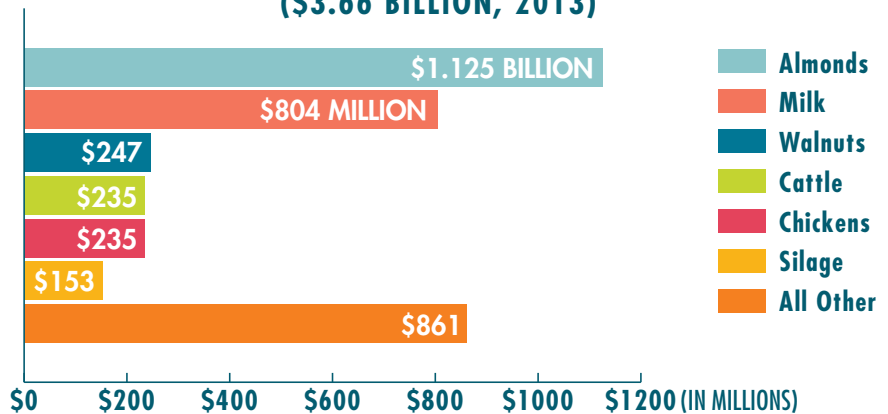
# 79,750 ACRES

of developed ag land in eastern Stanislaus County lie **outside** the boundary of any irrigation district and are **100% dependent** upon groundwater.

## WATER USED TO PRODUCE



## STANISLAUS COUNTY RANKS NO. 6 IN CALIFORNIA IN CROP VALUES (\$3.66 BILLION, 2013)



## HEALTH VALUE OF ALMONDS

- Tree nut highest in six essential nutrients
- Naturally 100% gluten free
- Top source of antioxidant vitamin E
- Just 160 calories per ounce
- High in monosaturated ("good") fat
- Rich in magnesium
- High in protein and fiber



**June 25, 2015**

**An Open Letter from Trinitas Farming,**

We appreciate and respect that emotions can run high when water is the subject. We believe it's important that facts – and not assumptions – are used to evaluate the potential impact of drought and agricultural growth in eastern Stanislaus County. Here are some facts we would like the public to know:

- Agriculture is a large and important industry in the county, which has more than 900,000 acres in farm production. The estimated value of agribusiness in Stanislaus County is \$14 billion annually.
- In 1998, there were about 48,700 acres in ag production in the eastern portion of the county outside the boundaries of any irrigation district and, therefore, primarily dependent upon groundwater. About 17,500 of those acres were east of Oakdale.
- Today, there are about 79,750 acres in ag production in the eastern portion of the county outside the boundaries of any irrigation district, with about 43,750 east of Oakdale.
- Trinitas' 6,400 planted acres are not among the 43,750 acres east of Oakdale that rely only on groundwater. We made a conscious decision as we developed our almond orchards that we wanted access to surface water. We sought and received annexation to the Oakdale Irrigation District, and have invested considerable time and money to hook up to OID's canals and install a state-of-the-art micro-drip irrigation system. Joining OID was a prudent and responsible choice – one that many other nearby farmers were invited to consider, but opted not to make.
- Before we purchased our land, we hired experts in hydrology and geology to evaluate the aquifer below our property. We have a groundwater management program that is professionally administered by these reputable third parties. Our commitment is to responsibly use and replenish our groundwater resources for many decades to come.
- We are among about 10% of the state's growers who have signed on to the sustainability program put forth by the Almond Board of California. That means we use the most efficient water and production practices to grow a healthy food product valued around the world.
- Our obligation to environmental stewardship extends to the land and animals on our property. We have set aside more than 400 acres for wetlands and habitat protection. We have built bridges and routed roads around sensitive areas.
- We constructed a special access road to minimize the need for our vehicles to use Orange Blossom and Horseshoe roads east of Oakdale. We also oil our roads to reduce dust.
- We are committed to Oakdale. Like many farming companies, most of the people who work with us have family ties in the community that go back generations. We also think it's important to patronize local businesses, recognizing the dollars we spend here are multiplied many times over. And we are proud to support many worthy civic causes.

The drought has made us all hypersensitive to how and where water is being used. We look forward to working collaboratively with others to protect and maintain this critical resource.