

# 2023 ABC Board of Directors Elections

## Candidate Statements

### **Paul Ewing**

***Independent Grower #1 – Member Seat***

If re-elected to the Board, I will continue to bring my experience and global market perspective to maximize your per pound assessment dollars. I have 14 years of experience as an almond grower, 20 years of almond sales experience and family in the industry since the 1970's. I have served on Almond Board marketing committees since 2005. In these difficult times, we need to continue increasing effective collaboration with other industry organizations like the Almond Alliance and support them in any efforts to get tariffs reduced with foreign trade partners. I am aligned with other Board members in not supporting supply reserves.

At the Almond Board we should continue focusing on fiscal responsibility and allocating marketing dollars to where our industry can move the almond consumption needle the most, including markets like India. We should continue to further leverage the health studies with public relations and social media. There are exciting health studies continuing to come out in 2023 (blood glucose regulations etc.) that we can leverage to increase consumer demand. I value transparency and you can reach out to see where I stand on any industry issue and bring any concerns you have.

Thank you for your consideration.

[paulewing@rpacalmonds.com](mailto:paulewing@rpacalmonds.com)

### **Mallvinder Singh Kahal**

***Independent Grower #1 – Member Seat***

My name is Mallvinder Kahal and I am a second generation Almond Farmer. My family immigrated to America from Punjab in the late 70's and have been farming in California since the 80's. I was born on the almond farm that my parents live on to this day. I grew up on the farm, not in the suburbs. Almonds aren't just an industry for me, it's my way of life.

After graduating from UCLA I immediately returned back to the farm. Since then I have been a part of the Almond Leadership Program, expanded my farming operation from only Madera County to now also Merced and Stanislaus County. I also built from the ground up my own processing facility (Atlas Almonds) so my family could take control of its own destiny in controlling our crop. This has also allowed me as a grower to sell directly into the market and by doing so have become accustomed to the global marketing of almonds. And I haven't stopped working to improve myself either; I'm a proud member of the California Ag Leadership Program Class 52.

I respect the work that has been done by the previous Board of Directors and I think very highly of them, but change is a necessary element of growth. We are at the book end of this chapter of our industry and growth necessitates a new perspective. Frankly the grower spots need to be filled by actual full-time growers. We need those making these decisions to be able to tell you with full honesty that they have bled for their farm, tell you about the countless sleepless nights lost to the farm, and know the feeling of the silent uncertainty of what the future holds for your orchard. I can speak to that and more. I know the joys but more importantly I know the first-hand pains of being a farmer. If elected to the Board I vow to be the voice of growers like myself, and be a pillar of accountability for this new era that the industry is entering in.

## **Katie Staack**

### ***Independent Grower #1 – Alternate Seat***

Dear Handlers and Growers,

My name is Katie Staack- Dorsett and I am running for the Almond Board of California Board of Directors as Grower Position One Alternate. As an industry we continue to push the limits and set global standards when it comes to farming practices, water efficiencies, and orchard technology. My goals are to represent farmers and work together with other agencies to protect our right to grow a bountiful crop while prioritizing market opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

[katie@grizzlynut.com](mailto:katie@grizzlynut.com)

## **Jaime Silva Esteves**

### ***Independent Grower #2 - Alternate Seat***

I would be excited to join and serve as a board member for the Almond Board of California. My husband Rui and I live in Denair on one of our farms. I am a mother of four children Victoria, Elizabeth, Dominic and Nicholas. My passion is farming because I grew up spending time on my family's dairy farm. I am a local realtor who specializes in agricultural, commercial and residential sales for 14 years. I also run the financials for R.E Construction which my husband and I started approx. 15 years ago. We are a local home builder. We specialize in residential and commercial renovations and flipping homes.

Rui and I bought our first farm in 2015 and have developed it into an almond orchard. We have grown our family farm over the last 8 years. I currently serve on Livingston Farmers Association as one of the board of directors. I have a passion for agriculture and helping people and I feel like serving on the board would allow me to help local farmers. It would be an honor to serve on the Almond Board of California.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

## **Brad Klump**

### ***Independent Grower #2 – Alternate Seat***

I have been an almond grower for the last 20 years. My wife is a third-generation grower. My experience in the industry covers the last 30 years, including many years serving on the Almond Board and a director as well as an alternate. I understand the history of the industry and the issues that are important to growers.

Throughout these 30 plus years, I have been involved in almost every aspect of the almond business including growing, marketing, handling, manufacturing, retail, as well as previously serving on the Almond Board. I have always felt that as a member of the Almond Board it is most important that all decisions are based on what is best for the growers.