

TOBIN BARTH

The almond industry has been an integral part of my life and my family for four generations and I'm passionate about ensuring its long-term success. I grew up in an almond orchard, working every job around the farm since I was seven. I'm familiar with all the hard work, struggles and risks of being an almond farmer. Continuing to serve on the Board would give me the opportunity to advocate for almond growers, ensuring their concerns are represented when it comes to pricing, marketing, regulations, sustainability and trade policies. I want to help shape industry decisions that lead to long-term profitability and growth while addressing the challenges we face. My background as both a grower with Trifecta Farms and experience as a processor with Capay Canyon Ranch allow me to bring a comprehensive perspective, bridging the needs of farmers, processors and the broader supply chain.

I bring a strong combination of hands-on agricultural experience, business leadership, and problem-solving skills. Specifically, my expertise includes:

- **Financial and Operational Management:** As the leader of our family's almond business, I oversee financial strategy, operational development, procurement and logistics—key areas that align with the Board's focus on industry efficiency and sustainability.
- **Grower and Processing Advocacy:** Growing up, I was no stranger to farm life—I was knee-deep in mud and dust from an early age. My parents instilled a strong work ethic in us, having us prune, irrigate, hoe, rake, mow, landplane, shake, sweep, and harvest. As a processor, I work closely with almond growers and understand their day-to-day challenges, from price fluctuations to regulatory hurdles to market access. I will ensure their concerns are prioritized at the industry level.
- **Regulatory and Market Navigation:** Having worked with organizations like the Almond Board, Almond Alliance, WTNA, Farm Bureau, INC, and SCTC, I stay actively engaged in policy discussions and industry trends. I understand the complexities of regulations, research, sustainability initiatives, marketing and global trade agreements, and I can help advocate for practical solutions that benefit growers.
- **Engineering and Strategic Problem-Solving:** My education and background in Civil Engineering and consulting have strengthened my ability to analyze complex industry challenges and develop data-driven, strategic solutions. I believe this skill set will be valuable in shaping policies that enhance efficiency, profitability, and long-term sustainability for the California almond industry.

I currently lead a multi-faceted almond operation, overseeing financials, purchasing, operations, procurement, development, production and sales while managing a diverse and dynamic team of employees and family members. Additionally:

- I currently serve on the Board; fighting for grower profitability.
- I was a participant in the **Almond Board's Almond Leadership Program** in 2012, which deepened my understanding of industry leadership and advocacy.
- I was a participant in the **Zenith Ag Leadership Program** in 2017, which expanded my leadership abilities.
- I was President of Esparto Little League 2015-2017 and also managed many Little League baseball, YMCA basketball and AYSO soccer teams for 13 years, further developing leadership and sharpening people skills.

- I have experience navigating regulatory challenges, sustainability initiatives, and market fluctuations, all of which are critical to the Board's decision-making process.
- My leadership approach is collaborative—I enjoy working with growers, processors, and policymakers to find solutions that benefit the entire industry.

I am committed to fighting for what's most important to almond growers: **profitability, expanding global market access, supporting research-driven marketing strategies and reducing unnecessary regulations**. If given the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board, I would bring a strong, experienced voice to the Board, representing the best interests of almond growers and ensuring the industry remains competitive and prosperous for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Tobin Barth
Trifecta Farms / Capay Canyon Ranch

PAUL EWING

I would like to continue to bring my experience and global market perspective to maximize your per pound assessment dollars.

Our board of directors hired a new CEO at the Almond Board in 2023 and are excited about what she brings to the industry. Since some of us were elected, the Almond Board has shifted an increasing proportion of marketing dollars to India, which shows great potential for continued demand growth. 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.

I have 17 years of experience as an almond grower, 23 years of almond sales experience.

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.

Paul Ewing

paulewing@rpacalmonds.com

GURAMRIT GHOMAN

I have grown up watching the almond industry; watching what it demands, what it rewards, and where it still has room to grow. The almond industry is not abstract to me, as it is the land I farm, the relationships I've built, and the future I'm investing in. Serving on the Board means sitting across from people I have long respected and working directly in service of them. I believe I would bring a breath of fresh air to the Board. There is a generation of younger growers who are deeply engaged and have a lot to contribute, and it is important that their perspective is represented alongside the experience and wisdom already there.

My expertise spans farming operations, finance, economics, and law. Those areas reinforce each other in ways that I think are genuinely useful for the Board. At Ghoman Farms, in my role as Operations Director, I oversee orchard and land management, with a focus on sustainable practices that support long-term soil health and productivity. In addition, I have traveled abroad and met directly with international buyers and partners, building the kinds of relationships that create lasting demand for California almonds. At AK Farming Solutions, where I'm Managing Partner, I oversee our financial strategy and work closely with growers to ensure their orchards are maintained to the best of our ability. My Economics degree from UC Berkeley and my J.D. studies at UC Davis give me the tools to understand markets, interpret data, engage with policy, and translate complex information into actionable decisions. This is exactly the kind of synthesis the Board level demands.

My most relevant leadership experience comes directly from running agricultural businesses. These are not peripheral roles, as they require me to think about the industry holistically, balance short-term pressures with long-term investment, and communicate clearly with growers, brokers, and partners who expect real answers. Beyond farming, I have held and still hold leadership positions across several nonprofits and community organizations, which sharpened my ability to build consensus, manage competing interests, and advocate effectively for the people we represent. The throughline across all of it has been a commitment to showing up prepared, being direct, and keeping the people we serve at the center of every decision.

I am eager to bring that same approach to the Almond Board of California, as a farmer, a future lawyer, and a proud member of the California almond community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Guramrit Ghoman
guramrit32@icloud.com
(530)717-3330

Candidate Statement of Qualifications

Candidate: Baljinder Singh

Seat: Independent Grower Seat #1 on Almond Board of California

Location: Gustine, CA (Merced County)

Background I am an almond grower with 32 years of experience farming in the Northern part of Merced County. I believe that growing almonds in California can be a productive, profitable, and personally satisfying venture even as we keep the land healthy and hand it off to the next generation.

Industry Involvement Our small family farm has benefited from the bounty of the Central Valley. At the same time I continue to lose sleep over skyrocketing input costs, almond price fluctuations, unfair policies, and stifling regulations. Yet, like most other almond growers I am an optimist, strive to improve conditions, and level the playing field for my family and neighbors.

Like you, I have farmed through droughts, Navel Orangeworm infestations, heatwaves, freezes, and crippling inflation. During normal circumstances we don't ask for handouts, we just want a level playing field where true supply and demand drive the price of our almonds. At times of crisis we do want our fair share of grants.

Vision for the Board If elected to the Independent Grower seat, my focus will be on three key pillars:

- **Better partnership with USDA:** Figuring out a better way to partner with the USDA, so growers can have better insight into what kind of funding is coming from USDA. Ensuring that a fair share of that funding comes to almond growers. Having input into increasing the accuracy of NASS estimates and carryover, so growers are not negatively impacted.
- **Transparency:** Ensuring that growers hear from their representative about issues that are discussed and decided at the Almond Board. Providing clarity on the initiatives funded by our assessment dollars, and how those initiatives will benefit us.
- **Fiscal Accountability:** Prioritizing high-ROI research and marketing initiatives that provide direct, tangible value to the independent grower's bottom line.

I believe that with unity among almond growers, we can advance our agenda. I am asking for your vote to ensure that independent family farms have a strong, clear, and experienced voice in Modesto.

Thank you for your consideration.

BENJAMIN STOCKLE

My name is Benjamin Stockle, and I am honored to be considered for the Independent Grower Position on the California Almond Board. My background combines business ownership with hands-on almond production, giving me a practical and grounded perspective.

For over sixteen years, I have owned and operated Richard's Prime Rib & Seafood in Fresno, California. This experience has provided me valuable insight into consumer expectations, food safety standards, and the complexities of supply chain management. As a result, I have a clear understanding of how California almonds are perceived and consumed in the marketplace.

In the past two years, I have actively participated as an almond grower. Through collaboration and learning from seasoned growers, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the challenges our industry faces, such as water management, rising input costs, and regulatory pressures. As a newer grower, I bring a fresh and enthusiastic perspective to these issues. I am committed to supporting sustainability, trust in the market, and ensuring financial responsibility within the industry.

Thank you for your consideration.