

**NOMINATION FOR**

# **Agriculturalist of the Year**

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Nomination

#1

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**Bill & Carol  
Chandler**



**Past Recipients:**

- 1981 Ed Rutherford
- 1982 Assemblyman John Thurman
- 1983 Gailen Martin
- 1984 Bill Staiger
- 1985 Carolyn Leavens
- 1986 Richard Lyng
- 1987 Clare Berryhill
- 1988 Senator Rose Ann Vuich
- 1989 Dean Brown
- 1990 Dick Markarian
- 1991 Gordon Van Vleck
- 1992 Richard Rominger
- 1993 Leland "Lee" Ruth
- 1994 William F. McFarlane
- 1995 Henry J. Voss
- 1996 Guido Lombardi
- 1997 John Lacey
- 1998 John Kautz
- 1999 Gertrude "Gertie" Zehrung
- 2000 A. J. Yates
- 2001 John A. De Luca
- 2002 Cecil L. Wetsel, Jr.
- 2003 Ann M. Veneman
- 2004 Alfred Montna
- 2005 George Gomes
- 2006 John Harris
- 2007 Len Richardson
- 2008 Bill Pauli
- 2009 Ron Schuler
- 2010 Bill Lyons, Jr.
- 2011 Robert "Bob" Gilbert
- 2012 A.G. Kawamura
- 2013 Edward H. Nishio
- 2014 Craig McNamara
- 2015 Charles D. "Chuck" Ahlem
- 2016 Sarbjit "Sarbj" Johl
- 2017 Tom Nassif
- 2018 Paul Wenger
- 2019 Karen Ross

**2020**

## 2019 NOMINATION FORM

# Agriculturalist of the Year

Carol & Bill Chandler

CANDIDATE'S NAME (please print)

Chandler Farms

BUSINESS/COMPANY/ORGANIZATION

**SUBMISSION DETAILS:** For each candidate submitted, nominator shall provide an informally written resume based on the criteria for selection, including a photograph of the candidate. There is a limit of one nomination per person.

### Criteria for Selection

- Someone who has contributed extensively and in a professional capacity to the agricultural industry;
- The individual must have demonstrated leadership and clearly represent the industry in any or all of the following areas over a number of years: **finance, government, production agriculture, education, labor, research, communications, trade, and public service;**
- The individual can be from any area of the agriculture industry;
- The individual will not be judged on his/her contributions to the State Fair (the Golden Bear Award honors that individual);
- All Nominees will remain in nomination for one year after their formal introduction. No previous Nominees qualify for automatic nomination.

### Nomination Submitted by (please print)

Name: <u>Barbara LeVate</u>	Phone: <u>916-708-7030</u>
<u>Senator Cathleen Galgiani</u>	
E-Mail: <u>John.Harris@barbaralevate.com</u>	
Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>1-17-19</u>

Return by **January 18, 2019** to:

Jay Carlson, Ag Program Manager  
Email: [jcarlson@calexpo.com](mailto:jcarlson@calexpo.com)

Phone: (916) 263-3109; Fax: (916) 263-7903

California Exposition & State Fair  
P.O. Box 15649, Sacramento, CA 95852

Deadline for Submitting  
Applications

**January 18, 2019**

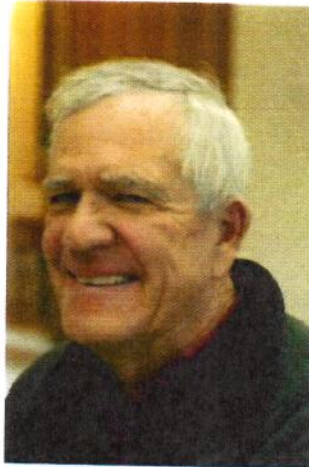


### PAST RECIPIENTS:

- 2018 Paul Wenger
- 2017 Tom Nassif
- 2016 Sarbjit "Sarbj" Joh
- 2015 Charles D. "Chuck" Ahlem
- 2014 Craig McNamara
- 2013 Edward H. Nishio
- 2012 A.G. Kawamura
- 2011 Robert "Bob" Gilbert
- 2010 Bill Lyons, Jr.
- 2009 Ron Schuler
- 2008 Bill Pauli
- 2007 Len Richardson
- 2006 John Harris
- 2005 George Gomes
- 2004 Alfred Montna
- 2003 Ann M. Veneman
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- 2001 John A. De Luca
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- 1998 John Kautz
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- 1990 Dick Markarian
- 1989 Dean Brown
- 1988 Senator Rose Ann Vuich
- 1987 Clare Berryhill
- 1986 Richard Lyng
- 1985 Carolyn Leavens
- 1984 Bill Staiger
- 1983 Gailen Martin
- 1982 John Thurman; Assemblyman
- 1981 Ed Rutherford



## BILL CHANDLER, CHANDLER FARMS, L.P.



Bill Chandler is a third-generation farmer in Fresno County. Bill and Carol farm near Parlier, Selma and Fowler. Their sons, John and Tom, recently joined the family farm which was founded in the 1880s by W.F. Chandler. They grow grapes, peaches, plums, nectarines and almonds.

A graduate of U.C. Davis in agriculture production, for the past 52 years he has been the manager and partner in Chandler Farms. Bill has had a long history of involvement in California agriculture. He has served and continues to serve and be recognized on a number of boards and commissions over the years, including:

- California Association of Winegrape Growers
- Nisei Farmers League
- Fresno County Farm Bureau
- California Cling Peach Advisory Board
- Freestone Peach Association
- California Fresh Fruit Association
- U.C. Davis Foundation Board
- U.C. Davis Fresno County Alumni Scholarship Chair
- Cal Aggie Alumni Association Director
- U.C. President's Agriculture Advisory Committee

A graduate of Class 6 of the California Agriculture Leadership Program, Bill is also involved in his community as a board member of the Sequoia Council of Boy Scouts of America and is the recipient of the Silver Beaver award.

## CAROL CHANDLER – CHANDLER FARMS, L.P

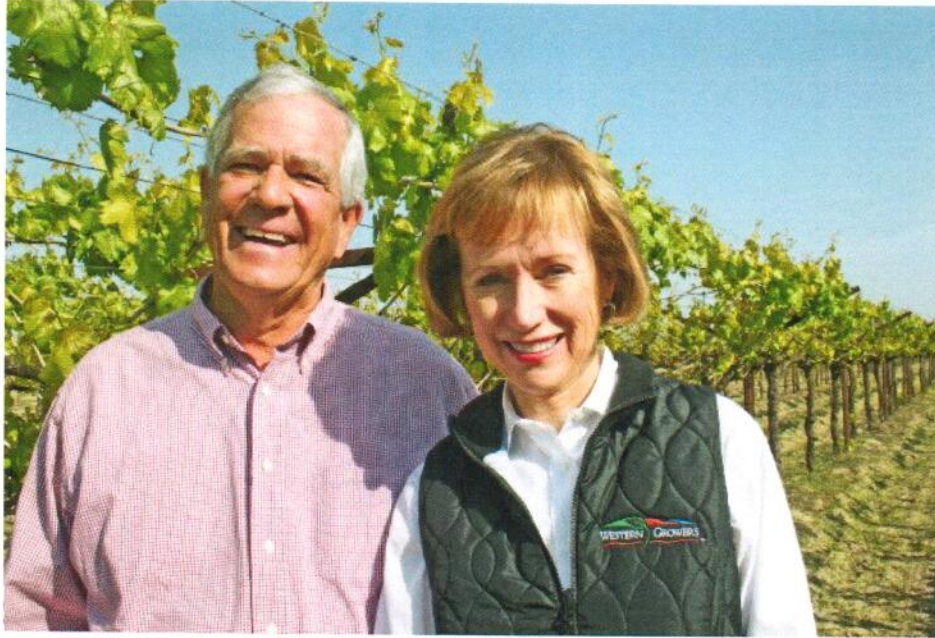


Carol Chandler is a partner in Chandler Farms. She and her husband, Bill, and sons, Tom and John, farm grapes, almonds, and tree fruit in the Selma area of Fresno County. Carol is actively engaged in the business administration portion of the farming operation. Prior to joining the family farm, Carol taught in the San Joaquin Valley, including Fresno City College. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Davis, and her Master's Degree from California State University, Fresno.

Carol is a past State President of California Women for Agriculture, a member of the Board of Directors of Western Growers Association, Fresno State Board of Governors, the Central Valley Community Foundation and American Agri-Women. She is also a member of the CSU Fresno Water Task Force and serves on the UC President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Carol previously served on the California State University Board of Trustees, University of California Board of Regents, California Post-Secondary Education Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture Advisory Committee on Emerging Markets, Grape & Tree Fruit League, and the Fresno County Fair Board.

Recognized by the California State Legislature as Woman of the Year in 1992 and 2002, Carol has further been acknowledged for her outstanding contributions to agriculture and education as the recipient of the Tapestry Award presented by Common Threads for outstanding achievements in agriculture, and as Agriculturist of the Year by the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce.





Bill & Carol Chandler



It's the iconic depiction of agriculture—a farmer driving his tractor at sunrise, walking the fields to check on his budding crops and brushing the dirt off his freshly picked produce. Though this scene is thought to be the most common portrayal of farm life, something significant is missing: the women.

Women make up a third of the nation's farmers, generating nearly \$12.9 billion in agricultural sales on a yearly basis. These 970,000 female farmers are the thought leaders behind innovative concepts that bring more fresh produce into the homes of Americans. They are the full-time owners and operators, family matriarchs, community volunteers and agriculture advocates that are paving the way for a more nutritious future.

Chandler is also an advocate for ag within higher education. She served on both the California State University Board of Trustees and the University of California Board of Regents to help develop education policy and ensure that students have a pathway to a higher education. In her roles, she consulted on system-wide initiatives that were geared toward shaping students into knowledgeable, highly-skilled professionals that would thrive in industries such as agriculture.

"There is a strong synergy between agriculture and higher education as we look for innovators to help us farm smarter and more efficiently," said Chandler.

STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 5097  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4005  
FAX (916) 651-4905

STOCKTON DISTRICT OFFICE  
31 EAST CHANNEL STREET  
SUITE 440  
STOCKTON, CA 95202  
TEL (209) 948-7930  
FAX (209) 948-7993

MODESTO DISTRICT OFFICE  
1010 10TH STREET  
SUITE 5800  
MODESTO, CA 95354  
TEL (209) 576-6273  
FAX (209) 576-6277

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**CATHLEEN GALGIANI**  
FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE  
CHAIR  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
CHAIR  
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION  
INSURANCE, BANKING  
& FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

January 15, 2019

Jay Carlson, Ag Program Manager  
California Exposition & State Fair  
P. O. Box 12649  
Sacramento, CA 95852

RE: Carol and Bill Chandler Nomination as Agriculturists of the Year

Dear Mr. Carlson,

I am honored to offer this letter of support for the nomination of Carol and Bill Chandler as Agriculturists of the Year. They are a dynamic couple who have demonstrated a true commitment to not only farming, but to family and their community. Along with their sons, they are continuing the legacy started by Bill's grandfather in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.

Over the decades, Carol and Bill have served on a number of boards and committees, having represented the agricultural community throughout the state. Carol served as a UC Regent and has demonstrated a passion for education. She is the recipient of several awards recognizing her contributions to agriculture and education. Likewise, Bill continues to manage Chandler Farms and has a long history of involvement and recognition in farming in California.

It is with the highest regard for the Chandlers that I nominate and support their receipt of this award. Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathleen Galgiani".

Cathleen Galgiani  
State Senator, 5<sup>th</sup> District





January 25, 2019

Mr. Jay Carlson, Ag Program Manager  
California Exposition & State Fair  
P. O. Box 12649  
Sacramento, CA 95852

Dear Mr. Carlson,

Recently I was informed by a good friend that Bill and Carol Chandler had been nominated for "Agriculturists of the Year" in connection with the State Fair Gala. Just the thought brought a wide smile to my face!

I have had the honor, pleasure and privilege to know Bill and Carol for more than four decades. I honestly cannot remember a time when they were not there to support and advocate on behalf of California agriculture. They truly are an unmatched duo when it comes to participating in leadership roles to articulate the value and need of the marvelous bounty of food, fiber and fauna that our state produces.

In addition, it is not merely the fact they are dedicated and unselfish leaders for agriculture; it is the manner and style of their leadership as well. They are extremely thoughtful and respectful in their approach to any issue which means their opinions and input carries even more impact. They are true servant leaders in every sense of the words that have benefited our agricultural community greatly.

While I am not aware of other persons that may have been nominated for this honor at this time, and I am sure there are many well deserving individuals, I genuinely cannot fathom a better choice than these two distinguished leaders who have worked so hard to advance California agriculture for the benefit all citizens, rural and urban, in this state. I believe strongly that their selection would be met with universal approval and agreement.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide input. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry Bedwell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Barry Bedwell  
President

*We grow leaders who make a difference.*



## Barbara LeVake

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**From:** Barbara LeVake  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 06, 2018 11:14 AM  
**To:** Jay Carlson  
**Subject:** FW: California Agriculturalists of the Year

Jay – I am sending this in case you do not get something from John. I am not sure he is around, have been emailing him.

Thank you. Barbara

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**From:** John Harris [mailto:JohnHarris@HarrisFarms.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2018 6:26 PM  
**To:** Barbara LeVake <barbara@blevake.com>  
**Subject:** California Agriculturalists of the Year

**I am pleased to second the nomination of Bill and Carol Chandler as Agriculturalists of the Year. Both of them graduated by UCD in the 1960's they have devoted their lives to promoting the well-being of farmers and agriculture in general. Both have served on numerous ag related boards and have taken many leadership positions to help advance our important industry. They still live on the farm that Bill's father and grandfather had farmed. They have 2 sons that are also actively involved in both farming and in preserving ag values. It would be a fitting award for them in recognition of their tireless work for farmers and agriculture.**



**B R A Z I L   L E V A K E**  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

BARBARA LEVAKÉ  
P.O. BOX 3014  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95812

(530) 673-5237  
FAX (530) 751-1810  
CELL (916) 708-7030

February 5, 2018

Mr. Jay Carlson, Ag Program Manager  
California Exposition & State Fair  
P. O. Box 12649  
Sacramento, CA95852

Re: Support Letter – Carol & Bill Chandler, Chandler Farms, Agriculturists of the Year

I am honored to write this letter of support for Carol and Bill Chandler as Agriculturists of the Year. This letter supports their nomination by John Harris and myself.

This couple depicts all that is good in California agriculture. They are an incredible team and have advocated tirelessly on behalf of the California agriculture. Together they have built a legacy on the farm Bill's family started in the early 1880's that will live on with their sons and grandchildren. As pioneers of California agriculture, Chandler Farms was recognized by the California Agricultural Heritage Club in 2016 for 125 years of operation.

Carol's leadership in public policy and agricultural education has demonstrated what one woman can do to inspire other women in agriculture to get involved and make a difference in the legislative and regulatory arena. As a past president of California Women for Agriculture and the Federal Issues Chair for American Agri-Women, she has been engaged in issues ranging from water to immigration to regulations. And, as a Board member on several other agricultural associations, Carol clearly is a leader in the industry and an inspiration to all.

Bill's devotion to farming is unequal. He loves what he does, and it shows by his unending commitment to improve, educate and promote California's fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts. Bill has had a long history of involvement in the California agricultural industry as demonstrated by his active participation and leadership on several agricultural trade associations. He has a strong commitment to his commitment and his family's heritage. He is an excellent role model for the next generation.

Bill and Carol Chandler's partnership is unique. They are dedicated to each other and to the industry they love. Together they represent integrity, decency, strong character and work ethic, all of which are important to making a business successful. I am honored to have known these two incredible individuals for over two decades.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at 916-708-7030.

Sincerely,



Barbara LeVake

## Barbara LeVake

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**From:** Mark Chandler <[judgemark2015@gmail.com](mailto:judgemark2015@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 09, 2018 9:39 AM  
**To:** Barbara LeVake  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bill and Carol Chandler nomination

Barbara,

As you can see this went to Jay yesterday afternoon, a day late. But I think he is going to give me a little grace since he knows I was judging at a wine competition and juggling emails trying to keep up. I have not heard back from him, but I will let you know when I do. Thanks for bringing this to my attention!

Best,

Mark

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Mark Chandler <[judgemark2015@gmail.com](mailto:judgemark2015@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Feb 8, 2018 at 4:35 PM  
**Subject:** Bill and Carol Chandler nomination  
**To:** Jay Carlson <[jcarlson@calexpo.com](mailto:jcarlson@calexpo.com)>

Hi Jay,

My apologies, due to travel commitments I did not get this draft to you by the deadline. But if you don't mind I would like to give you a little context for this nomination. Bill is my first cousin, once removed. He was the youngest cousin of my dad's generation who were even then 3rd generation CA farmers.

Bill and Carol are truly the dynamic duo of Central California farming. You can see this by their list of accomplishments. But their level of involvement and accomplishment did not start with Bill's generation. Barbara made mention of Bill's grandfather, my great grandfather, W.F. Chandler. He was a successful farmer in Illinois who made the treacherous crossing of the prairies and mountains to end up in Fresno County in 1882. **This patriarch set the tone for Chandler family entrepreneurship and public service.** He was a leader in agriculture, politics and real estate. The land for the original Fresno Airport (Chandler Field) was donated to the City of Fresno by WF Chandler.

WF had five sons, three of whom stayed in agriculture: my grandfather settled in Exeter in Tulare County and helped bring water to the South Valley by advocating for the Friant Kern Canal; Bill's dad stayed on the family homestead in Fresno County; and one moved north to pioneer the development ag land in Sutter County. One of the sons was a doctor and served as the Dean of the Stanford Medical School for 25 years; another had a distinguished career in law in Fresno. Space does not allow me to outline the accomplishments of the rest of Bill's generation, which are substantial, but you can see growing up in this family you feel an obligation to achieve great things, preserve agriculture and engage in public service.

As Bill came by this tradition honestly, he could not have a better partner in Carol. Wow is she connected! And they both are the most congenial, pleasant people you would ever want to meet. Now with their sons Tom and John back on the family farm, the tradition is assured to continue. They truly are a deserving couple for all their dedication and leadership, and what a time to recognize them!

Thanks for your time, call me if you have any questions.

Best,





February 6, 2018

Jay Carlson  
Ag Program Manager  
California Exposition & State Fair  
P.O. Box 15649  
Sacramento, CA 95852  
[jcarlson@calexpo.com](mailto:jcarlson@calexpo.com)

**RE: Nomination of Bill and Carol Chandler for 2018 Agriculturalist of the Year Award**

Mr. Carlson,

On behalf of Fresno County Farm Bureau (FCFB), I enthusiastically write in support of the nomination of Bill and Carol Chandler as the California State Fair's 2018 Agriculturalist of the Year.

Bill and Carol, along with their sons, Tom and John, farm almonds, grapes, peaches, plums, nectarines and citrus in Fresno County. Both Bill and John have been involved in various capacities on the FCFB Board of Directors over the past several decades, and Carol has been a long-time volunteer.

As third-generation farmers, Bill and Carol have a strong history of advocating for the agricultural industry and our rural communities. Both have held various leadership roles in many local and statewide organizations working for the betterment of the industry and the region. They have given tirelessly of their time and talents to be a needed voice of the California farmer, recognizing the future of the industry is dependent upon the champions of today. Their names are synonymous with being some of the Valley's best "ag-vocates."

The Chandler's dedication to American agriculture is remarkable and worthy of this special recognition. It is an honor to submit this letter of support for Bill and Carol's nomination, and I wholeheartedly feel they are the best of what California agriculture has to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Jacobsen", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ryan Jacobsen  
CEO

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
JEAN FULLER

SIXTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



January 31, 2018

Mr. Jay Carlson, Ag Program Manager  
California Exposition & State Fair  
P.O. Box 12649  
Sacramento, California 95852

RE: Letter in Support of Carol and Bill Chandler as Agriculturist of the Year

Dear Mr. Carlson,

I am writing to express my support for Chandler Farms and for the nomination of Carol and Bill Chandler as Agriculturist of the Year.

Bill Chandler is truly the quintessential California farmer, a remarkable representative of an entire industry in our State. As a third-generation farmer, he is proud to be in agriculture and to work the same land as his father. Bill is known for confronting the difficult challenges agriculture presents head-on, always looking for solutions to better the industry. Bill has passed on his lifelong passion for farming to his sons Tom and John, both of whom returned to the family farm after receiving degrees in agriculture related fields.

I have personally witnessed the community contributions Carol has shown to California and the agriculture community. Carol was successful as an educator, including teaching at the post-secondary level at Fresno City College, before devoting herself full-time to her family business. While running a successful business, she remained active with both business and agricultural organizations. Carol served as president of California Women for Agriculture and as a board member for both Western Growers Association and the California Chamber of Commerce. She was honored locally as the Agriculturist of the Year by the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

It is for these reasons that I am pleased to lend my support to Chandler Farms as Agriculturist of the Year. Should you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my District Office at (661) 323-0443.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Fuller".

JEAN FULLER

California State Senate, 16<sup>th</sup> District





February 5, 2018

Mr. Jay Carlson, Ag Program Manager  
California Exposition & State Fair  
P.O. Box 12649  
Sacramento, CA 95852

RE: Carol and Bill Chandler 2018 California State Fair Agriculturalist of the Year Nomination Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Carlson:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit for your consideration the names of Carol and Bill Chandler as candidates for the 2018 California State Fair Agriculturalist of the Year. As agricultural colleagues, friends and mentors of both my husband Bill and myself, I have worked closely with the Chandlers in numerous capacities for over twenty years. They are insightful and intelligent, widely respected by their contemporaries, and are some of the greatest ambassadors for agriculture I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Their love of agriculture and commitment to the industry is to be emulated and they are perfect compliments of one another. As third-generation family farmers on land that has been family owned for over a hundred years, they are partners with their sons in Chandler Farms. Over the years, Bill has been active in many organizations including the CA Association of Winegrape Growers, CA Cling Peach Advisory Board, CA Agriculture Leadership, U.C. Davis Foundation Board and CA Fresh Fruit Association. Likewise, Carol has also been active in many organizations including the Western Growers Association, Fresno State Board of Governors, past State President of CA Women for Agriculture, American Ari-Women, and a former member of the UC Board of Regents and CSU Board of Trustees.

Their ability to communicate and lead is done with professionalism and respect. They engage those in and out of the industry to share their knowledge; and their collective leadership has been at the forefront of local, state and federal advocacy for agricultural industry. They are accessible visionaries, and have amazing work ethic.

For the reasons shared above and so many more, I enthusiastically support the nomination of the Chandlers for the 2018 California State Fair Agriculturalist of the Year. If you have any questions of me, please do not hesitate to contact me at [hammertimeranch@gmail.com](mailto:hammertimeranch@gmail.com) or (559) 916-4425.

Sincerely,

Karri Hammerstrom  
Hammertime Ranch & Company, Partner  
CA Women for Agriculture Past State President  
Central/Mother Lode Regional Consortium, Regional Chair



February 5, 2018

VIA EMAIL

[jcarlson@calexpo.com](mailto:jcarlson@calexpo.com)

The California State Fair Ag Advisory Council  
c/o Jay Carlson  
The California State Fair  
1600 Exposition Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95815

RE: Bill and Carol Chandler Agriculturalists of the Year Nomination

Dear Ag Advisory Council,

As the immediate past winner of the Agriculturalist of the Year Award, I wish to express my unreserved support for the nomination of Bill and Carol Chandler. Separately, they are each deserving of the award in their own right. Together, they represent the best of what California agriculture has to offer and everything we hope will endure for the future of family farming in our state.

The Chandler name is synonymous with success and service. For more than 50 years, Bill Chandler has been the managing partner of Chandler Farms, growing tree fruit, grapes, almonds and citrus. His stewardship of the land is admirable and his love of farming is contagious, as evidence by his two sons who are now thriving in the family business. More significantly, Bill has looked beyond his own farm and has spent a lifetime giving back to the agricultural community. He has served on countless industry boards, including the California Fresh Fruit Association, California Association of Winegrape Growers, Nisei Farmers League and the Fresno County Farm Bureau, and has served on the University of California President's Agriculture Advisory Committee, among numerous other posts.

For her part, Carol Chandler has simultaneously supported the family business while providing renowned leadership for California agriculture. She has served on the Western Growers Board of Directors for over a decade, most of that time as a member of the Executive Committee, as well as State President of the California Women for Agriculture. She is also involved in several community and philanthropic organizations, including the Central Valley Community Foundation and Junior League of Fresno. While Carol's contributions to the agriculture industry cannot be overstated, her advocacy on behalf of higher education is equally remarkable, as she has served on the California State University Board of Trustees and the University of California Board of Regents.





The California State Fair Ag Advisory Council  
c/o Jay Carlson  
The California State Fair  
February 5, 2018  
Page Two

In my decades of service to the agricultural industry, I have rarely come across a husband-and-wife team as emphatically engaged in their community, or as relentless in their pursuit of the greater good, as Bill and Carol. This focus on servant leadership defines the Chandlers and is the bedrock of their legacy in California agriculture. Truly, no one is more deserving of this award, and I encourage the Ag Advisory Council to give serious consideration to the nomination of Bill and Carol Chandler as Agriculturalists of the Year.

Sincerely,

Tom Nassif  
President & CEO  
Western Growers