



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Committee Item INFORMATION

Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships

4/28/2026 Special Committee Meeting

3a

Subject

Central Valley Agriculture Perspectives presented by: Cannon Michael, Bowles Farming Company

Executive Summary

Cannon Michael is the President and CEO of Bowles Farming Company, headquartered in Los Banos, California. He will share his perspectives on California agriculture as a leading grower in the Central Valley and his deep involvement in organizations that advance agriculture and water policy.

Fiscal Impact

None

Applicable Policy

None

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

None

Details and Background

Metropolitan owns approximately 43,000 acres of agricultural land in California. In the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Palo Verde Valley, Metropolitan works directly with farming interests to manage the District's land through leases, conservation programs, and other sustainability initiatives. The District also works directly with agricultural interests in Central, Northern and Southeast California on water supply programs. Through the member agencies, Metropolitan provides water supplies and conservation programs for agricultural interests in its service area. Metropolitan is seeking to build relationships within agriculture and learn from agricultural leaders to help inform policy discussions and the development of future programs.

Cannon Michael is active and engaged in California water and agriculture issues. For Bowles Farming Company, he oversees an 11,000-acre farm where the company grows cotton, fresh market and processing tomatoes, field crops, and other commodities. He serves as the Chairman of the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority, as a director on the San Luis Canal Company Board, as a director on the Henry Miller Reclamation District Board, and as the president of the San Luis Resource Conservation District Board. He holds leadership positions with the Exchange Contractors PAC, the Cotton Incorporated Board, the California Cotton Growers Association, and the California Tomato Research Institute.

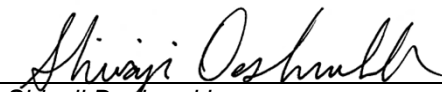
Education and advocacy are foundational to his work. He graduated from the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation program in 2010. He is a director for the Family Farm Alliance, serves as a director on the Water Education Foundation Board and for the Center for Land-Based Learning Board. He also serves on the Public Policy Institute of California Water Policy Center Advisory Council.

Michael will share his perspectives on California agriculture as a leading grower in the Central Valley and his deep involvement in organizations that advance agriculture and water policy.



Carolyn Schaffer
External Affairs Group Manager

4/17/2026
Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

4/17/2026
Date

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