

2023

2022/2023
ANNUAL REPORT





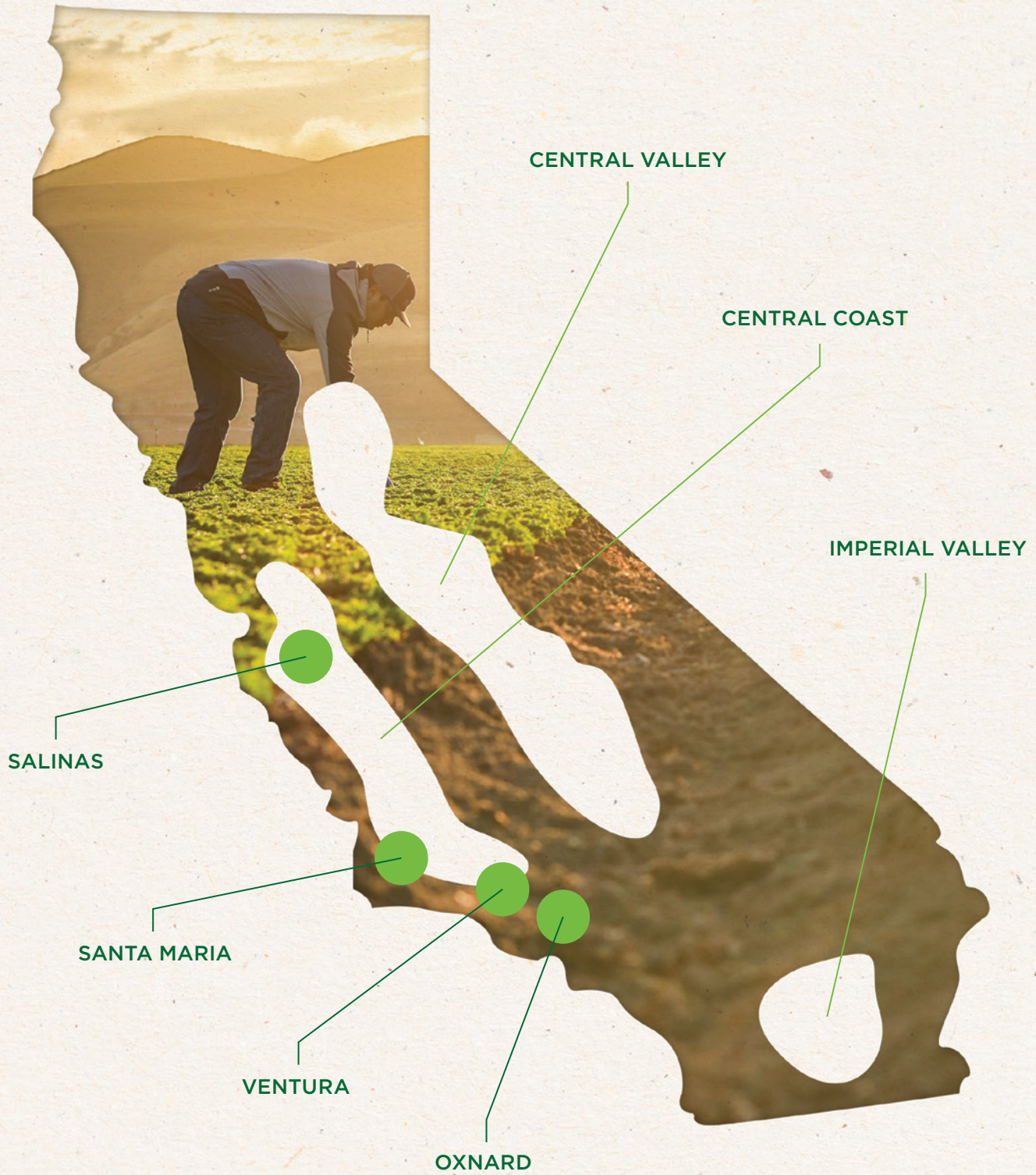


ABOUT THE **LGMA**

The California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) is a food safety program that brings growers, harvesters, and shippers together to make lettuce and leafy greens safer. LGMA members produce over 70 percent of the nation's lettuce and leafy greens, which totals more than 30 billion servings per year. To provide consumers with safe leafy greens, the California LGMA verifies food safety practices, enforces through government audits, and upholds a commitment to continuous improvement.

LGMA MEMBERS

CALIFORNIA GROWING REGIONS



COLBY PEREIRA,
BRAGA FRESH FAMILY FARMS

“The Salinas Valley is known as ‘the Nation’s Salad Bowl’ for growing much of the U.S. supply of leafy greens, spring through fall. Our coastal influences, micro-climates, and nutrient-dense soil make an ideal growing region for all leafy green varieties. Known for generational farming, the Salinas Valley is a hub of knowledge and resources committed to continuous research, improvement, and setting science-based standards for food safety practices.”



SALINAS VALLEY

NOB FURUKAWA,
GOLD COAST PACKING

“California’s Santa Maria Valley produces a wide range of fruits and vegetables made possible by its alluvial soil, Mediterranean climate, and the efforts of a great many people that are involved. The prodigious range of leafy green crops that are produced in our area is impressive. Due to the temperate climate, we have a long growing season. Leafy green crops such as cabbage can be found year-round, and lettuces and spinach are among some of the crops produced spring, summer, and fall. As with all California LGMA growers and shippers, we work to provide a safe, quality product to the consumers.”



SANTA MARIA VALLEY

JACK VESSEY,
VESSEY & COMPANY

“The Imperial Valley offers buyers the opportunity to see the continuation of California leafy greens year-round. Leafy greens are mainly harvested here in the wintertime, but while some areas of the state saw flooding in early 2023, we were not impacted. It is why we are a unique part of the California growing cycle. At the end of the day, we look to do the best job possible, with confidence in our products so consumers can have the same.”



IMPERIAL VALLEY

2022/2023 MEMBERS

Agro-Jal Farms, Inc., Santa Maria
Amigo Farms, Inc., Yuma, AZ
Babé Farms, Inc., Santa Maria
Baloian Packing Co., Inc., Fresno
Beachside Produce, LLC, Guadalupe
Bella Vista Produce, Inc., Santa Maria
Bengard Ranch, Inc., Salinas
Bonipak Produce Co., Santa Maria
Boskovich Farms, Oxnard
**Braga Fresh Family Farms/
Braga Fresh Foods**, Soledad
C & E Farms, Inc., Salinas
**Church Brothers Farms, LLC/
True Leaf Farms**, Salinas
Cinagro Farms, Inc., Fillmore
Classic Salads, LLC, Salinas
Coastal Fresh Farms, Westlake Village
Coastline Family Farms, Inc., Salinas
Creekside Organics, Inc., Bakersfield
D'Arrigo Brothers of California, Salinas
Dan Andrews Farms, Bakersfield
Deardorff Family Farms, Oxnard
Dole Fresh Vegetables, Salinas
Duda Farm Fresh Foods, Inc-CA, Salinas
Durant Distributing, Santa Maria
Dynasty Farms, Salinas
EpicVeg, Inc., Lompoc
Field Fresh Farms, Watsonville
Fresh Choice Marketing, Inc., Oxnard
Fresh Express, Inc., Salinas
Fresh Kist Produce, Nipomo
Fresh Venture Farms, Oxnard
George Amaral Ranches, Inc., Gonzales
Gold Coast Packing, Santa Maria
Golden West Vegetables, Inc., Oxnard
GreenGate Fresh, LLLP, Salinas
Grimmway Farms, Bakersfield
Harbinger Group, LLC dba Misionero, Salinas
Heritage Farms, LLC, El Centro
Hitchcock Farms, Inc., Salinas
Ippolito International, Salinas
J. Marchini Farms, Le Grand
Jayleaf, LLC, Hollister
Joe Heger Farms, LLC, El Centro

Kenter Canyon Farms, Inc., Sun Valley
Lakeside Organic Gardens, LLC, Watsonville
Mainas Farms, LLC, Holtville
Mann Packing Co., Inc., Salinas
Marmolejo Farms, Inc., Oxnard
Mike Abatti Farms, LLC, El Centro
Muranaka Farms, Moorpark
Muzzi Family Farms, Moss Landing
Ocean Mist® Farms, Castroville
organicgirl, LLC, Salinas
Pablo's Produce, Inc., Oxnard
Pacific Fresh Produce, Inc., Oxnard
Pacific International Marketing, Salinas
**Pajaro Valley Fresh Fruit and Vegetable
Distributing, LLC**, Watsonville
Peter Rabbit Farms/Amazing Coachella, Inc., Coachella
Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange, Oceano
Premium Valley Produce, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ
Ratto Bros., Inc., Modesto
Ready Pac Foods, Inc., Irwindale
River Fresh Farms, LLC, Salinas
Royal Rose, LLC, Salinas
Sabor Farms, Salinas
Salad Savoy Corporation, Salinas
San Diego Farms, LLC dba Fresh Origins, San Marcos
San Miguel Produce, Oxnard
Silva Farms, LLC, Gonzales
Spinaca Farms, Inc., Gilroy
Steinbeck Country Produce, Spreckels
Sun Coast Farms, Santa Maria
SunTerra Produce Traders, Inc., Newport Beach
Sunsation Farms, Inc., Monterey
Talley Farms, Inc., Arroyo Grande
Tanimura & Antle Fresh Foods, Inc., Salinas
Taylor Farms, Salinas
The Nunes Co., Inc., Salinas
The Salad Farm, LLC, Salinas
TLC Custom Farming Company, LLC, Yuma, AZ
Vessey & Company, Inc., Holtville
Visionary Vegetables, LLC, Salinas
Western Harvesting, LLC, King City
Zada Fresh Farms, LLC, Salinas

VISIT LGMA.CA.GOV FOR AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF
CERTIFIED MEMBERS



LGMA CERTIFICATION



The value of LGMA Certification is that it's not only good for the health of the industry and the consumer, but it's also good for business. Through a rigorous set of processes and guidelines, the Certification builds trust across the supply chain, from the grower, packer, and shipper to the retail fresh produce department, foodservice operator, and the ultimate consumer.

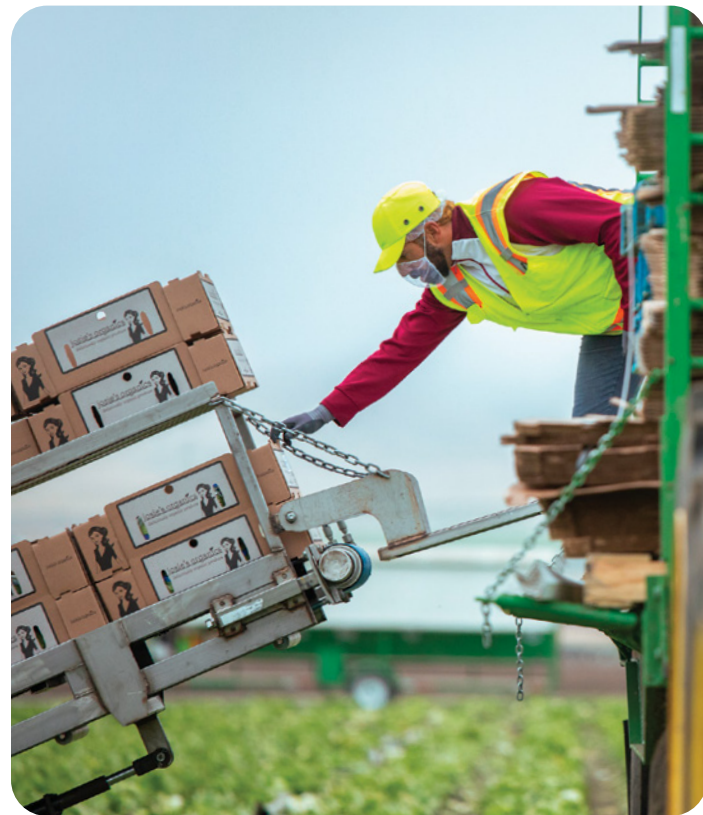
LGMA members must maintain 100 percent compliance with the LGMA food safety standards to be certified. The LGMA requires that members correct all findings cited during audits and that preventive measures are continually in place to protect public health.

This Service Mark signifies that the member has been verified to be in compliance with the LGMA food safety practices. Members of the LGMA are only allowed to

use the Service Mark after they have been audited by California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) auditors and submitted any corrective actions to the LGMA Compliance Officer. Buyers can verify that handlers are members of the LGMA by checking the website and by looking for this Service Mark on bills of lading.

LGMA is vitally important to leafy green growers in California because it is an important guide and resource to enable them to grow safe and quality produce. Having government-trained inspectors auditing routinely helps farmers achieve their goals of continuing to minimize the risk of contamination.

This association has the ability to help growers feel even more confident in the food safety programs that they have in place on their farms.



THE BIG PICTURE

We are in the business of providing nutrients. With that purpose, we also have the opportunity to bring joy.

Our mission as the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement is to make sure that the first is safe so that the second is possible, a pursuit I have been lucky enough to be on for more than 20 years. But it was in the most recent chapter, as I settled in as Chief Executive Officer, that I read *The Wall Street Journal's* "The Airline Safety Revolution," which helped me to see that there is an existing map to our mission. While we have known for some time that data sharing and collaboration are essential to the success of food safety, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) model is a living example of what is possible when the right guidelines and mutual trust are established.

A "sweeping safety reassessment" or a "virtual revolution in thinking"

launched a voluntary incident reporting program that included data sharing and FAA pledges that good-faith mistakes and procedural violations wouldn't result in enforcement actions, resulting in something remarkable: carrying more than 8 billion passengers since 2010 without a fatal crash.

It is a brilliant light, especially amid the challenges that are the nature of the leafy greens business, to look ahead to as we work together to bring everyone from the beginning to the end of the supply chain together onto the same page ourselves—the most frequent piece of feedback we hear from you, our partners in produce.

It all takes collaboration. For LGMA to be the standard buyers as a whole set for their food safety parameters, discussion and teamwork are required, demonstrating we are hearing the buy-side's concerns and

understanding their responsibility to provide safe food to consumers. Likewise, that we communicate our need for consistent and standardized expectations. That collaboration has been critical to our success from the beginning. It is in our Mission Statement and it is in our everyday practice—because food safety is a shared responsibility throughout.

In order to successfully create a true culture of food safety, we need to trust each other before consumers can trust us. Food safety is not, can not be, a competitive issue. It is, instead, the responsibility of our industry as a whole and what unites us in our purpose: bringing nutrients and joy to consumers.

You should not wonder when you board a plane if you will make it to your destination. Likewise, we are here to ensure that there is only enjoyment when it comes to eating the wonderful leafy greens we grow.



TIM YORK,
Chief Executive Officer,
California LGMA

MEANINGFUL MOVES FORWARD

As we look back at the 15-year evolution around leafy greens food safety, we have continuously evolved to adapt new guidelines as the science suggests important and necessary change. The efforts and resources committed by our California farmers and product handlers to implement this program have been unprecedented.

The LGMA program has always been rigorous. It requires stringent, leafy green-specific government audits—including one yet unannounced. In addition, all corrective actions must be implemented in a timely manner to be 100 percent compliant and certified.

As we look to the future, we are beginning to move toward a meaningful and measurable food safety standard that is more preventative, with a collaborative structure that is aligned up and down the food supply chain.

The LGMA will continue to grow and build on its past success. With our eyes on the future, we will

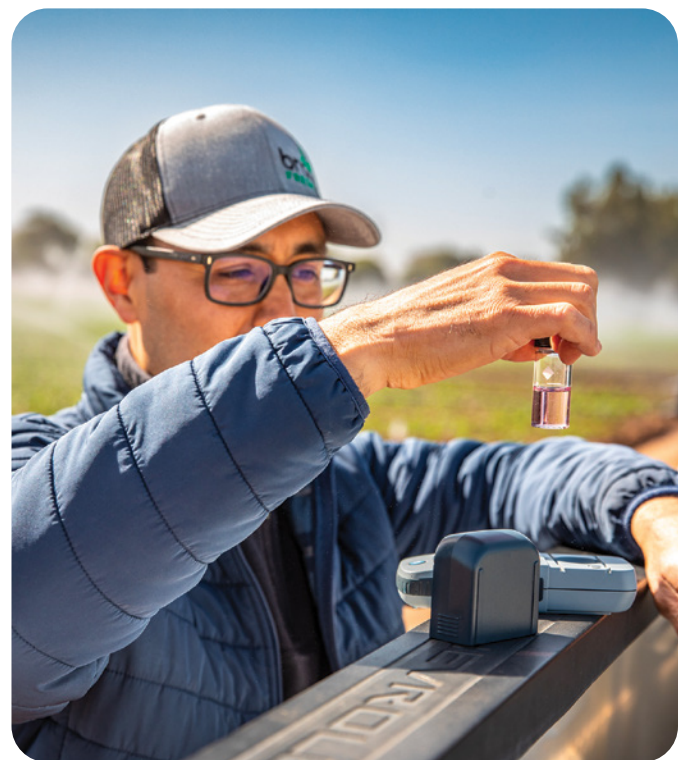
develop a plan which focuses on five pillars—Food Safety, Science, Alignment of the Entire Food Chain, Operational Excellence, and Measurable Data.

We need to provide a framework that guides our approach to the challenges and opportunities of the future. The demands placed on the leafy greens industry constantly change. Therefore, we must proactively adopt the latest innovations in technology, people management, science, and strategy while remaining disciplined in measurable food safety standards that are sustainable.

LGMA must always remain relevant and firmly established to provide the safest and most effective food safety system possible. The pillars and initiatives that comprise our plan represent the practical steps and partnerships necessary to achieving this goal while remaining faithful to our duty: feeding generations to come the safest leafy greens humanly possible.



JAN BERK,
Chief Executive Officer,
San Miguel Produce;
Chair, California LGMA



FOOD SAFETY VERIFICATION AND ENFORCEMENT

AUDITS

Audits are how the California LGMA verifies that our members are using the LGMA Food Safety Standards in their growing and harvesting operations. The goal of the LGMA program is to conduct a scheduled audit of each member approximately every two months

during active harvest. Additionally, the program aims to conduct an unannounced audit of each member annually. All audits are conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, with oversight from the United States Department of Agriculture.

MEMBER AUDITS | 2022 - 2023

REGULAR (Scheduled)	243
FIELD (Unannounced)	74
TOTAL	317

COMPLIANCE

The LGMA compliance process is both rigorous and unique: LGMA members are required to maintain 100 percent compliance with the food safety standards. That means every audit citation must be corrected.

CATEGORY	INFRACTIONS	MINORS	MAJORS	FLAGRANT	TOTAL
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	0	10	0	0	10
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS	1	9	0	0	10
WATER USE	8	34	29	0	71
SOIL AMENDMENTS	0	7	0	0	7
WORKER PRACTICES	8	15	0	0	23
FIELD SANITATION	8	35	6	0	49
FIELD OBSERVATIONS	16	11	3	0	30
RECORDS	2	9	3	0	14
PERSONNEL	1	23	0	0	24
TRANSPORTATION	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	44	154	41	0	239

DECERTIFICATION.....1

CITATIONS EXPLAINED:

INFRACTION - the least serious violation, which can usually be corrected during an audit

MINOR - a less serious violation that does not necessarily result in unsafe product

MAJOR - a serious violation, but that does not necessarily result in unsafe product

FLAGRANT - a violation that significantly increases the risk of delivering unsafe product

ENFORCEMENT

The LGMA Compliance Officer reviews every audit, assigns citation levels, and works with government auditors to ensure that every citation has been corrected. If a citation is severe, or if smaller citations are not corrected, the Compliance Officer will start the decertification process. Decertification can last from two weeks up to a year.



ALYSSA LICATA, COMPLIANCE OFFICER

“When analyzing compliance for this period, we saw an uptick in numbers for water use and field sanitation audit citations. This lets LGMA staff know that we need to continue to prioritize outreach to our members regarding these topics. In response to these findings, LGMA hosted office hours, sent out member updates and posted food safety support materials in our online resource library called LGMA Connect.”

DECERTIFICATION

In October 2022 the California LGMA decertified one of its member companies for non-compliance. The decertification was for a period of two weeks, but the member company is no longer a member of the program.

When a company is decertified, they cannot present themselves as a certified LGMA member, nor use the LGMA Service Mark. Government agencies and produce buyers rely on LGMA certification for supplier verification. Loss of certification potentially means a loss of sales, including product being turned away from international borders. An up-to-date list of LGMA members and their certification status is always available at www.lgma.ca.gov.

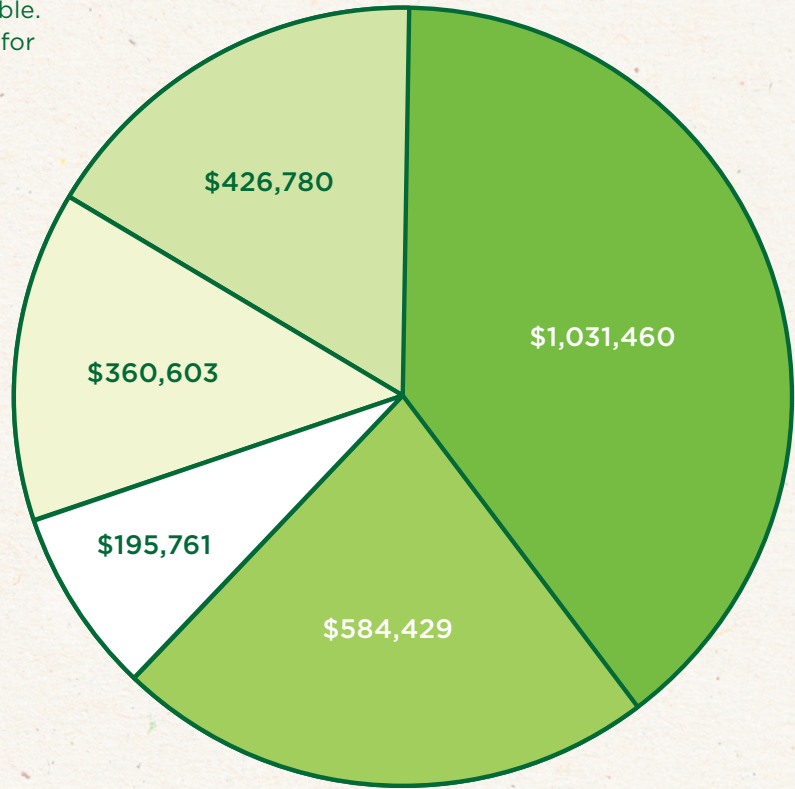


OPERATING EXPENSES

At time of publishing, the operating expenses from California LGMA audited financials were not available. Included here are the audited operating expenses for the fiscal year April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022.

- LEGAL AND MARKETING BRANCH: **\$1,031,460**
- COMMUNICATIONS: **\$584,429**
- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL: **\$426,780**
- TECHNICAL: **\$360,603**
- DC OUTREACH: **\$195,761**

TOTAL: \$2,599,033



BOARD AND STAFF 2022-2023

BOARD MEMBERS

- TONY ALAMEDA
- MATT AMARAL
- JAN BERK
- TODD BRENDLIN
- CHRIS DREW
- SCOTT GRABAU
- REGGIE GRIFFIN
- JOHN JACKSON
- DREW MCDONALD
- KRISTINA NUNES
- COLBY PEREIRA
- RON RATTO
- JACK VESSEY

ALTERNATES

- MITCH ARDANTZ
- MEGAN CHEDWICK
- KATHLEEN CHRISMER
- LARRY COX
- CYNTHIA DOMINGUEZ
- ARMANDO FIGUEROA
- NOB FURUKAWA
- TIM MCAFEE
- GURMAIL MUDAHAR
- CHATO VALDES

LGMA STAFF

- TIM YORK
Chief Executive Officer
- GREG KOMAR
Technical Director
- ALYSSA LICATA
Compliance Officer
- BROOKE PALMER
Administrative Assistant
- CONNIE QUINLAN
Program Coordinator
- JENNIFER SCHERPINSKI
Project Coordinator
- APRIL WARD
Communications Director





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