

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

MAY 2023  
VOLUME 47, ISSUE 5

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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

## 2023 AI Smith Friend of Agriculture Chosen Randy Repass and Sally-Christine Rodgers



The 2023 AI Smith Friend of Agriculture, Randy Repass and Sally-Christine Rodgers (not pictured) accepting the award from Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau President, Dennis Webb

Over 200 tickets were sold for the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon held Wednesday, April 26, 2023 in the Heritage Hall at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville. The annual event is coordinated by the Santa Cruz

County Farm Bureau and the educational organization, Agri-Culture.

At the luncheon, the 2023 AI Smith Friend of Agriculture award was presented to **Randy Repass and Sally-Christine Rodgers** for their strong support of local agriculture and

National Agriculture Day - Continued on Page 9



Kelly Garcia Franklin



**Winning 2023 Poster Contest**  
Kelly Garcia Franklin  
Mar Vista Elementary School  
5th Grade



Luke Zamora

**See Luke's winning poem on page 5**

# President's Message



Dennis Webb, President

## Watsonville's General Plan Update - Get Involved!

Two months ago, I shared with readers an update on the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau's development of its strategic plan. I stressed the importance of long-range planning as a way to empower our future leaders. We're also participating in the development of another long-term plan, the outcome of which will have significant effects on our membership and our community over the next few decades. The City of Watsonville is undertaking an update of its General Plan.

All cities in California are required to have and periodically update a general plan. A general plan includes land use policy, transportation planning, public services and infrastructure planning. Its contents will be the legal underpinning of many of the City's future planning decisions.

A state requirement of each city's general plan is a housing plan,

formally called the housing element. Each city's housing element must be updated every 8 years, and Watsonville is doing so as part of the current General Plan update. The city's new housing element must demonstrate policy choices that will enable the city to meet the state's quota of a 2,053 new units – three times the number required over the previous 8 years.

The city hopes to present its Draft Housing Element by summer 2023, the CEQA-required analysis of alternatives in fall 2023, select its preferred alternative by winter 2024, prepare the final plan throughout 2024, and finalize the General Plan by 2025. There are a lot of choices to be made during the General Plan

President's Message - Continued on Page 7



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*So much to celebrate in May!  
Mother's Day  
Down to Earth Women Luncheon  
Memorial Day  
Have an enjoyable month!!*

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# ASK THE UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**Yu-Chen Wang, Plant Pathologist, UCCE**

## Meet Yu-Chen Wang

**Q.** I heard you got hired recently to work here on the Central Coast in plant pathology, so can you tell us a little bit about yourself Yu-Chen?

**A.** It has been about six months since I joined the UC Cooperative Extension as Plant Pathology Advisor. Here are some of my thoughts on what we are looking at on the Central Coast for this year.

**Getting to know the community.** I had a great time interacting with and serving the local community for the last six months. I met many of you and received a warm welcome. Thank you so much! I appreciate you sharing your farming experience and obstacles. It means a lot to me to understand the system so I can look for appropriate solutions. I look forward to continuing to know the community and at the same time contributing to the community all my abilities.

**Plant disease concerns for a wet year.** Hydrologic data from City of Santa Cruz shows that we received over 173% of cumulative precipitation than the average.

We got 49 inches of precipitation this season so far while the historical average was only 28.27 inches. Besides the water logging or flooding conditions delaying farming practices, many diseases favor wet conditions. Some examples include phytophthora root rot and Zythia leaf blotch on strawberries; anthracnose and bacterial leaf spot on lettuce. Phytophthora root rot is caused by oomycetes. Zythia leaf blotch and anthracnose are fungal diseases. Bacterial leaf spot is caused by bacteria. Noted that treatments are specified against different groups of pathogens.

**Moving forward.** Based on my observation in the last six months, many central coast growers are pursuing resilient practices and aim to achieve sustainable and profitable food production. I look forward to assisting in the change and any new challenges coming along with this wet year.

For questions regarding plant diseases, contact Yu-Chen Wang at [yckwang@ucanr.edu](mailto:yckwang@ucanr.edu) or (831) 201- 9689.

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## Interesting California Trivia

**D**id you know that Steve Jobs, the legendary co-founder of Apple Computers, hated license plates and never used one on his cars? He would lease a new Mercedes-Benz SL 55 AMG every six months. The law in California allowed owners a grace period of six months before they had to get a license plate.

Another fun fact, the world's oldest male bodybuilder, Jim Arrington, is from Venice, California. He was born in 1932 and has been bodybuilding for the past 70 years. ■

# THE WATER NANNY

## Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly

To celebrate 4/20, Elon Musk launched the world's largest rocket ship from Texas. Shortly after launch, it exploded over the Gulf of Mexico in a "rapid unscheduled disassembly". Disassembly is an interesting phrase, avoiding the word failure, while pointing to a sudden demise of the object.



The Pajaro levee east of town disassembled in March. While unscheduled, it was quite rapid, with the failure flooding Pajaro and the surrounding farmlands. Rapid unscheduled implies unforeseen, which we may debate until the new levee is constructed in 2025. Other flooding disasters are neither rapid nor unforeseen, like the rain soaked rise of Tulare Lake in the San Joaquin Valley.

In the 1850s Tulare Lake was the largest lake west of the Mississippi, up to 660 square miles of area (Tahoe is only 192 square miles), with riverboats plying all the way to Bakersfield. At times Tulare Lake covered where the towns of Corcoran and Stratford are built. Wily farmers and ranchers, along with several large dams built by the Bureau of Reclamation and State, drained the lake and rerouted rivers creating vast farmlands.

Tulare Lake, even 200 years ago, was a shallow lake, expanding and shrinking based on the river runoff and the southern Sierra's snow pack. Like most lakes, it had an impermeable barrier preventing it from draining into the groundwater, the Corcoran Clay. The San Joaquin Valley is hot all summer, and even irrigation deliveries from the reservoirs to the east necessitated extensive groundwater pumping. Unlike most of the valley, the area below the Corcoran Clay, subsides rapidly due to over pumping. Some parts sank over 20-30', making the dry lake bed below any rivers that drain it. However, once it floods little can be done beyond summer evaporation.

During times of robust rainfall the lake would refill, which necessitated a levee, built across usually dry farmland, to protect Corcoran, and its two prisons, from occasional floods. Our recent drought also caused complacency, even

though weather records indicated a large winter following prolonged drought would cause runoff to exceed the rivers and dams, and flood; a slow predictable disassembly of a thriving farm town. In April, Corcoran jumped into action to divert this threat by raising the 14 mile levee 3.5' to avoid melting spring snow runoff, while thousands of acres of farm lands will flood.



At least the winter of 2023 was not as bad as the Great Flood of 1862. This flood followed a 20 year drought, causing Sacramento to flood, California almost went bankrupt (State employees were not paid for 1½ years). Most of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys were inundated; 5,000 to 6,000 square miles, 3.5 million acres, were under water and this was all before global warming.

A history that foretells failure has been ignored by citizens and the government alike. To prevent other flood events along our rivers and coast we need to prepare ourselves for future floods, because they are not unforeseen, only occasional. As that great philosopher Warren Buffett said: *"Only when the tide goes out do you discover who's been swimming naked."* To provide a Zen balance to our lives, next month we will consider the opposite, a slowly scheduled assembly. ■

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### Priscilla Noh Is The Recipient Of The Laura Brown Scholarship



Priscilla Noh has been named the 2023 recipient of the Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship. Priscilla is a senior at Watsonville High School. Priscilla will attend Masters University in the fall of 2023 and will be majoring in Agribusiness.

The Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship is a \$2,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture or a related field or majoring in culinary arts.



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Crab Chioppino

**D**uring my search for a recipe to share this month, I opened a cookbook put out by the YMCA, "Some of the Nation's Best Cooks Live In Santa Cruz County". This edition is from 1975. I found many familiar names and great recipes, so I decided to reprint one now and then. Maybe we will find a fun "vintage" recipe along the way. This month's recipe was submitted by Heidi. She did not include her last name so we'll just have to wonder. Hope you enjoy the adventure!

1/4 cup olive oil  
1 cup minced parsley  
3/4 cup minced onion  
3 cloves minced garlic  
3 cans tomato sauce  
2 live crabs, cracked and cleaned

1 teaspoon Italian seasoning  
1 1/2 pounds clams  
1/2 pound raw prawns, shelled and cleaned  
1/2 pound scallops, optional  
1 pound mixed fresh fish, cod, halibut and sea bass  
Salt and Pepper



Saute vegetables in 1/4 cup olive oil until lightly brown. Add tomato sauce, salt and pepper. Simmer 10 minutes. Add crab and simmer 10-15 minutes more. Add other fish and boil gently for about 20-30 minutes. Serves three to four people. Excellent served over steamed rice. A tossed green salad, crusty french bread and a bottle of chilled wine goes great with this.

### Grown in Santa Cruz County

I'm from Santa Cruz County, a place of pure beauty,  
Where the sweetest strawberries ripen up so fruitfully.  
Like these sweet berries, I'm ever changing,  
Growing and maturing, my life rearranging.  
Time is our enemy, yet also a friend  
We wish to be ripe, before our end  
Fearful of failure, yet willing to try  
Onward we go with twists and turns, like a strawberry vine,  
Though we may look different, our cores are the same  
A tiny strawberry, a person with a name  
We both are small, yet large in a way  
And are big parts of Santa Cruz County today

### 1st Place 2023 Poetry Contest

Written by: Luke Zamora  
Pajaro Valley High School  
Grade 12

## Diego Ramirez Is The Recipient Of Three Agri-Culture Scholarships



**D**iego Ramirez has been named the 2023 recipient of, not one, but three Agri-Culture scholarships: The Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship, the J.J. Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship and the Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship. Diego is a senior at St. Francis High School in Watsonville.

The Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship is a \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture.

The J.J. Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is a \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture.

The Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship is a \$1,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture or a related field.

# "Agriculture, the Original Green"

## BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER

### Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership and receive the many benefits and services available. By joining the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau you help support agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

### How to Join

Go to [www.cfbf.com](http://www.cfbf.com) and click on the "JOIN" button. No need to log in on this page. Go to the bottom of the page and click on NEVER BEEN A MEMBER to set up a new account.

Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
141 Monte Vista Avenue  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
[sccfb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sccfb@sbcglobal.net)  
(831) 724-1356

## Save the Date

### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

#### CCFB 105th Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 22, 2023  
Rodgers House, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

#### 30th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 14, 2023  
Pajaro Valley Golf Club

#### California State Fair

Friday, July 14, 2023 to Sunday, July 30, 2023  
Cal Expo, Sacramento

#### Santa Cruz County Fair

Wednesday, September 13 to Sunday, September 17, 2023  
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

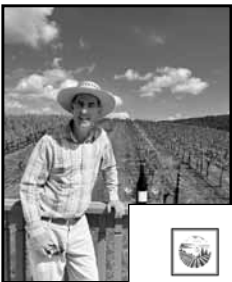
#### Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 2, 2023  
Location to be determined

#### CCFB Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
Reno, NV

## I'm a Farm Bureau Member/ Supporter because...



I am proud to be a Farm Bureau member because our local farmers work with such devotion, grow our food and provide economic vitality to our community. The local organization has great leadership.

John Bargetto  
Regan Vineyards

**Editor's Note:** My sincere apologies to John Bargetto for failing to add his name to last month's quote. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### Agri-Culture

#### 15th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Thursday, May 11, 2023  
Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

#### 14 Annual Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 26, 2023  
Estrada Deer Camp

#### 27th Annual Farm Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2023  
Location to be determined



## Spraying Safely with Neighboring Ag Properties



Following this winter of rainstorms and flooding, we are coming to a late start in our agricultural production season. Many growers impacted by the damaging winter weather systems are playing the difficult game of catch-up as they are finally able to get work done in their fields and attend to their crops. In addition to the multiple farm activities that start occurring regularly with the growing season (e.g., planting or replanting, irrigation work, fertilizing, thinning, and harvesting), operators will also be assessing insect pest, pathogen and weed pressures at their sites and making permitted applications of agricultural pesticides when necessary. With the many challenges the weather-related delays have caused, it remains crucial for our agricultural operators to proceed with a high level of safety and awareness when performing pest control in their fields and to consider the importance of communication with your own employees and those of neighboring agricultural growers.

On the most basic level, pesticide applications should under no circumstances take place when there is any reasonable possibility that fieldworkers, bystanders, or any other persons nearby or adjacent to the field could be impacted by the spray. If you have trained employee pesticide applicators performing spray-work on your farm, it is imperative that they understand this and know when to quickly shut-down the sprayer should they see anyone approaching or transiting through or near the area being treated. *When in doubt regarding the proximity of people in your field of vision, shut down the sprayer until it is clear that no one is potentially in harm's way.*

Please remember to always be proactive while planning and making pesticide applications. Ensure that you have checked your spray equipment for any problems that may exist, that it is safe to operate and that it has been recently calibrated and any necessary repairs have been made. Always monitor the weather prior to and while spraying, including temperature, wind speed and wind direction.

Because of the commodities grown in our county and the nature of the work involved, fieldworker crews move rapidly and often from one part of a field to another, or from one site to another. If a crew is working nearby, it is always best to stop a pesticide application and wait until the workers have moved offsite or a safe distance away. Please keep in mind that protecting the well-being of fieldworkers is everyone's priority.

Communicating with your neighboring grower(s) is important. If you are planning to make a pesticide application and there is any potential at all that the farm next-door may have people out in their field working when you intend to spray, it is critical that the information be shared with the farm operator or ranch manager in advance so they can be fully aware of the situation and make appropriate decisions on the scheduling and location of their workers. And of course, the same applies if you are notified by your neighboring ag operator about their planned applications. If you don't know your current agricultural neighbors or how to contact them, we can help. Call our office at **(831)763-8080** and we will use any resources at our disposal to assist you with getting that information.

As this 2023 season at last gets under way in Santa Cruz County's excellent and productive farmlands, please remember to put safety first when conducting your pest management work. If our office can be of any assistance in understanding the laws, regulations, and/or best safety practices when it comes to pesticide use in agricultural settings, please do not hesitate to contact us. ■

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### President's Message - Continued from Page 2

update. The City's planners are collecting community input through workshops and the convening of a Community Advisory Council, which the Farm Bureau is participating in.

Through my participation in the City's most recent workshop, it has become clear that the public is most interested in land use policy and housing. The Farm Bureau and its members have a substantial interest in both topics. I call on our members to participate in this process - decisions are made by those who show up. ■

## Fences and Agreed Boundaries



**B**oundary line disputes are often easy to resolve. The property owners hire a surveyor to mark on the ground what their deeds say. The “agreed-boundary doctrine” however can complicate things.

According to California law, when there is ambiguity about the real boundary, the owners of two adjoining parcels can agree on markers or a line, for example, a fence or a line of stones on the ground, to be the boundary between their parcels.

If there is such agreement and the agreement stands for at least five years, or if the owner can show they relied on that agreement so that a change of position would incur substantial loss, this agreement then can be found by a court to supersede the legal description in the deeds.

The California Supreme Court said in a 1994 case, *Bryant v. Blevins*, that even if the legal descriptions in the deeds are not uncertain and can clarify the real boundary, the agreed-boundary doctrine still applies if there is an established and long-standing agreement. In such a case, the agreed boundary doctrine may still supersede the legal descriptions in the deeds.

A fence by itself does not create a boundary line. A property owner, as a matter of convenience, might allow a fence to stand that does not strictly adhere to the boundary line. In that case the property boundary would remain as described by the deed. Many property owners and tenants do not think much about their fences. They just assume that the fence marks their boundary line. The agreed-boundary doctrine only applies if both parties explicitly agreed that this would be the official boundary for the five-year statute of limitations period and either 1) there is true uncertainty about the exact boundary, or 2) according to the *Bryant v. Blevins* exception, there is a long-standing agreement. California courts require evidence that an agreement existed to settle a dispute about the boundary line. The actual boundary should not be changed just because property owners thought the fence was the boundary.

So, this is a difficulty in establishing an “agreed boundary.” Proving an agreement, which may well have been just a handshake, can be difficult. Without testimony from the owners when the agreement took place, it is difficult to provide evidence to satisfy a California court that such an agreement should replace the description in the deed.

If there is evidence of an “agreed boundary,” a special kind of county superior court lawsuit called a “quiet title” action might be required. A quiet title action asks a judge to determine who owns the property. It is called “quiet title” because the purpose of the lawsuit is to “quiet” any dispute when one party attempts to invalidate a claimed ownership interest of another party or eliminate ambiguity regarding ownership. The person filing the lawsuit asks the court to throw out the defendant’s claim to a piece of real estate, settle boundary disputes. Sometimes the person filing the lawsuit also asks for money damages and to order the neighbor to remove themselves from the property.

The first step in determining whether the agreed boundary rule applies is to have a surveyor determine the deeded boundary and depending on the determination, seek the advice of a real estate attorney. ■

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## Madison Kelly Is The Recipient Of The Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship



**M**adison Kelly is the 2023 recipient of the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship. Madison is a student attending Modesto Junior College. Madison plans on attending Texas Tech in the fall and will major in Animal Science.

The Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship is a \$3,000 award for a student entering or currently attending college and majoring in agriculture. This award includes \$2,000 from American AgCredit.



# News & Information from RCD

Written by Dan Hermstad, Agriculture Program Specialist  
Resource Conservation District, Santa Cruz County

## The Return of SWEEP and Healthy Soils Funding: Get Ready!!

**M**any of you have been inquiring about when the State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program (SWEEP) funding will open again. We've heard the same questions about the Healthy Soils Program (HSP). Well, good news: a new round of funding is finally here! Both programs have received a large influx of funds from the State, but this time CDFA is trying out a new 'block grant' model in addition to the 'traditional' model of direct contracts and payments with growers.

The solicitation that is currently open is for the block grant model, by which CDFA will give large awards (up to \$5 million) to eligible third party entities (such as your local RCD) through a competitive selection process, and the selected awardees will then distribute grants to growers in their local area. Your local RCD (us!) will apply for one of these grants, and if awarded this will translate in a much less competitive process for growers in our area (you!), and increasing your chances of getting SWEEP and HSP projects funded. A separate solicitation is expected later this year for the direct grower application model (of both programs), so if we don't get funded through the block grant you will still be able to apply directly through the traditional model. Double chances for winning!. Let's review what these programs offer:

**SWEEP** – This program provides funding for any equipment and installation that saves water and energy. Practices that have been funded in the past include: installing VFD's, solar

installation for powering well pump and/or production facility, purchasing soil moisture sensors, flowmeters and telemetry, pressure regulators, efficient sprinkler heads, converting well pumps from diesel to electric, etc. The request **must** result in both water savings as well as energy savings.

**HSP** – This program funds the purchase and/or implementation of soil improving practices. Typical practices funded include compost application, mulch application, cover crop seed purchase, edge of field plantings like hedgerows and windbreaks, reduced tillage practices, etc. Any practice that improves the health of the soil should be considered for funding as part of this program. The practice must also be newly implemented – so not previously employed on the ranch – in order to be eligible.

If you are interested in applying for SWEEP you can begin to prepare by getting a pump test (we have limited funding to offer these tests for free, on a first come first served basis) and starting to get your paperwork together. For both programs you can reach out to us at the RCD and let us know that you are interested and we will put you on our email list so that you will receive the most up to date information on the programs. Reach out to Sacha Lozano ([slozano@rcdsantacruz.org](mailto:slozano@rcdsantacruz.org)) or Dan Hermstad ([dhermstad@rcdsantacruz.org](mailto:dhermstad@rcdsantacruz.org)) to get on those lists. ■

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### National Agriculture Day - Continued from Page 1

their tireless volunteerism. The award was announced and presented by **Richard and Mary Travis**, who received the award in 2022. This award is named after Al Smith who was the founder of Orchard Supply Hardware and donated 3,000 acres (Swanton Pacific Ranch) on our north coast to Cal Poly. The ranch has row crops, timber and even a one-third-scale railroad, which was Al's hobby. The award is on a piece of redwood with a train depicted on it. It is presented annually to an individual, business or organization not involved in production agriculture but has done much for the industry.

Also presented at the luncheon were the winners of the 2023 National Ag Day Poster and Poetry Contests. **Kelly Garcia Franklin**, 5th Grade, Mar Vista Elementary School in Aptos, won the poster contest. And **Luke Zamora**, 12th

Grade, Pajaro Valley High School, won the Poetry Contest.

Master of Ceremonies for the event was Farm Bureau President, **Dennis Webb**. The featured speaker for the luncheon was **Sarah Newkirk**, Executive Director, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, who spoke on the topic "Conserving Working Lands in the Era of Climate Change".

Other notables in attendance included Santa Cruz County Supervisors, **Felipe Hernandez** and **Bruce McPherson**; Watsonville Mayor **Eduardo Montesino**; Scotts Valley Mayor, **Jack Dilles**; Pajaro Valley Unified School District Superintendent, **Dr. Michelle Rodriguez**; Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County CEO, **Susan True**; and Shadowbrook Restaurant owner, **Ted Burke**. ■

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# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

## CALENDAR

**THURSDAY - MAY 4**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**FRIDAY - MAY 5**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 3

**THURSDAY - MAY 11**  
15th Annual Down to Earth  
Women Luncheon

**THURSDAY - MAY 25**  
SCCFB Board of Directors'  
meeting

**MONDAY - MAY 29**  
Memorial Day Observed  
Office Closed

**THURSDAY - JUNE 1**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**FRIDAY - JUNE 2**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 2

**THURSDAY - JUNE 22**  
105th Annual Meeting  
Make your reservations early!

**YOUR  
FUTURE  
GROWS  
HERE.**

The change in agriculture today is just a glimpse of what lies ahead. It's why, more than ever, we are committed to being the partner you can trust, who understands your needs and delivers value to help you achieve your goals.



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