GROWER NEWSLETTER
December 6, 1991

<u>10% RESERVE ON '91 CROP</u>-- Almond Board voted yesterday to RELEASE this reserve. The vote was 7 to 3 with representatives of Dole, Cal-Almond and Monte Cristo voting <u>against</u>. We were surprised by the early release vote and amused by the role reversal in voting. The release will become effective when signed by USDA. We do not expect much change in the market as a result-- not many handlers had withdrawn as a result of selling 90% already.

<u>MARKET CONTINUES SLOW AND STEADY</u> with grower prices the same or a couple cents lower:

        Nonpareil 1.23 to 1.27
        California 1.15 to 1.17

The next two months is a good time to think about <u>forward sales of 1992 crop almonds</u> on part of your crop. Prices today would be close to current levels. Please call if you are interested.

<u>ALMOND DELIVERIES BY GROWERS</u> reached 443 million lbs by October 15-- just 17 million lbs short of the crop estimate. We expect the actual crop to exceed the estimate when it is all in.

<u>WATER ISSUES</u> will become increasingly important in the years to come-- ground water regulation (quality and pumping), surface water transfers and agricultural vs. urban allocation. We have found a good history of water development in the West-- with startling projections: <u>Cadillac Desert</u> by Marc Reisner. We also subscribe to "Western Water", a periodical from the Water Education Foundation in Sacramento. If you would like a copy of the book, a subscription or a California water project map, please call us. We will send them to you with our compliments.

My partners, staff and I send you our best wishes and hope that the coming holidays are a good time for you and your family. We welcome home the last of the American hostages from Beirut as we pack our first container of almonds for Lebanon. We also remember Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima and Nagasaki as we pack several containers for Japan this month and are grateful to be part of the peaceful cooperation and friendship between the people of our two countries.

                                            Ned T. Ryan