



**2026 State Liaison Representative/Commodity Liaison Committee  
Meeting Agenda**

**IR-4 Project, Western Region Contact Information**

Kari Arnold: 530-574-9181  
Mika Tolson: 530-219-3983  
Karla Avila: 510-938-0280

**MONDAY, April 20**

The Lodge at Columbia Point  
530 Columbia Point Drive, Richland, WA, 99352, US

**5:45 PM**      **Meet at hotel lobby** for group dinner, walk to restaurant  
**6:00 PM**      **Group Dinner**  
Perch Cantina, 592 Columbia Point Drive, Richland WA 99352

**TUESDAY, April 21**

\*Breakfast on your own

**8:00 AM**      **The Reserve Conference Room, The Lodge**  
Coffee, check in (please get breakfast before the meeting)

**8:15 AM**      **IR-4 SLR/CLC Welcome 2026, Restrooms**  
Kari Arnold, PhD., Associate Director Western Region IR-4

**8:30 AM**      **Introduction to New Executive Director of The IR-4 Project**  
Lina M. Quesada-Ocampo, PhD.

**8:45 AM**      **Round Table Introductions**

**9:15 AM**      **EPA Update**  
Johanna Mazlo, IR-4 National Quality Assurance Unit Manager

**9:45 AM**      **IR-4 Outreach Updates**  
Hannah Ross, National Information and Communications Officer

**10:00 AM**      **Break**

**10:30 AM**      **Fruit Industry Challenges in WA**  
Tobin Northfield, PhD., Professor, Washington State University



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- 11:00 AM Round Table Priority Discussion**  
*Things to Consider: Identify pest issues of importance, IR-4 project challenges, and outreach opportunities in the Western Region.*
- 12:00 AM Lunch**
- 1:00 PM IR-4 IS/Programmatic Updates**  
Kari Arnold, PhD., Associate Director Western Region IR-4
- 1:15 PM Priority Discussion**
- 2:15 PM Break**
- 2:30 PM General Production Agriculture in WA**  
Doug Walsh, PhD., Professor, Washington State Univ.
- 3:15 PM Ag Tour Logistics**
- 5:15 PM Meet in Lobby** for group dinner, walk to restaurant
- 5:30 PM Dinner Reservations**, Lulu Restaurant, 606 Columbia Point Dr, Richland, WA 99352

**WEDNESDAY, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

\*Breakfast on your own

**Washington - AG TOUR**

- 8:30 AM Meet at The Lodge lobby**  
530 Columbia Point Drive, Richland, WA, 99352, US  
Choose your carpool adventure
- 9:00 AM Leave Hotel**
- 9:30 AM Agri Northwest Control Room**  
In this control room, technicians manage the flow of water through large pipelines that draw from the Columbia River and distribute it across several hundred 120-acre center pivots. These systems support the production of specialty crops such as sweet corn, onions, potatoes, and onions grown for dehydration. It is a large-scale, highly coordinated operation.



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- 10:30 AM Hartley Onion Sorting Facility**  
A group of LDS families, including the Hartley family, work collaboratively to operate the largest dry bulb onion farm in the country. Their efforts are supported by a sorting facility manufactured in Holland.
- 11:45 AM Overlook Stop Above the Yakima Valley**  
A broad, 10,000-foot overview of the region's diverse farming operations. Doug Walsh will also speak on the water availability issues currently impacting the area.
- 11:00 AM IR-4 Insecticide Registration Needs of Growers in Imperial County**  
Hoary Stock Plant Trial (GPS location 33.2713970, -115.5463678)  
Dr. Arun Babu, Entomology Advisor for Imperial County, UCCE
- 12:00 PM Lunch at Washington State University, Prosser**  
Wilson Peng will provide a guided tour of his IR-4 research plots and related work.
- 1:30 PM Vineyard Stop, TBD**
- 2:00 PM Cosmic Crisp, Apple**  
The Cosmic Crisp apple is the remarkable result of 20 years of study and research by Washington State University's world-class tree fruit breeding program. Classically bred and grown in Washington State, the Cosmic Crisp apple is a cross of the Enterprise and Honeycrisp varieties. The large, juicy and red apple has a perfectly balanced flavor and firm texture, making it ideal for snacking, cooking, baking, and entertaining.
- 2:45 PM Olsen Bros Ranch**  
Olsen Bros Ranch features hops on one side, apples on the other, and organic blueberries in the back. The site also includes an antique hop picker and a traditional hop kiln.
- 4:00 PM Depart for The Lodge,**  
Approximately 30-minute drive.
- 5:30 PM Dinner**  
Those interested in joining the group dinner should meet in the hotel lobby. Please note there are no formal reservations; the group will head out together.