**Hello Fellow Multi-state Working Group Members:** I’m sorry that I couldn’t find a hotel in Monterey, but I don’t think you’ll be disappointed in the location I’ve arranged for us. The combined 2018 NC1186 and S1065 meeting will be based in **Carmel, CA**! We will be staying at the Carmel Mission Inn, attending the 2018 California Nursery Conference (Tuesday June 19) and grower tour (Wednesday June 20) in Watsonville, CA followed on Thursday (June 21) with the working group meetings in Salinas, CA. There is an optional tour on Friday June 21 as well.

**HOST HOTEL:** Carmel Mission Inn, 3665 Rio Road, Carmel, CA 93923 (www.carmelmissioninn.com)

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**: Reservations: 888-803-6191. You must **call** and make your own reservation. There is no online registration available. Be sure to use the group name **USDA Grower Conference** to receive the agreed upon room rate.

We don’t have a block of rooms set aside for us, but you need to make your reservation before May 18, 2018 and they will be able to accommodate our agreed rate as long as they have rooms available. The room rate is $142 per night for the nights of Monday through Thursday (that is check-in on Monday, June 18, and check out on Friday, June 22). Any other night will be at their best available rate. Be aware that there is a big bicycle race on the weekend following our meeting and their regular room rates may be $238 per night after our meeting. Please consider sharing rooms with colleagues. Also know that the room rate is subject to a 10.5% transient occupancy tax, a $2.00 per room night TID tax as well as a $7.70 Facilities Service Fee. If you have to cancel, please do so no later than 48 hours prior to arrival to avoid cancellation charges.

**MEETING REGISTRATION**: Register for the USDA NC1186 & S1065 meetings (including the CA Nursery Conference and Tour) at:  <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=24388>.

There is no registration fee and costs will be covered by NC1186. Those costs include transportation between the hotel and the venues, lunches, and breaks/snacks for the entire package of conference, tour, meetings, and optional tour for NC1186 and S1065 members. Please register at the link above so I know how many of us will be attending each day. There are options at registration page to let me know which combination of conference, tour, meeting, and optional tour you’ll be attending. Please know that you will be responsible for transportation to/from Carmel, lodging costs, dinners, and other incidentals.

**AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION**: Because there are several airport options to get to Carmel and the distance, we will not be providing transportation to/from the airports. However, I would still like to know of your arrivals and departures. Please use the online form at <http://bit.ly/2IrZJRP> to enter your incoming and outgoing flights. Since the UC group will be driving a few vans to Carmel on Monday, we may be able to time our passing through San Jose (SJC) or Oakland (OAK) to provide a ride to Carmel. We will not be driving near SFO, so those coming into San Francisco need to arrange for other transportation into Carmel. Monterey (MRY) is also an alternative airport, but flights are limited to linkages to LAX and SFO (United), Phoenix (American), and San Diego (Alaska).

**TENTATIVE PROGRAM:** This year we are using the format of a full day conference with growers and a full day of tours to nurseries with growers. The third day will consist of the NC 1186 and S1065 combined meetings and then separate for the independent group business meetings in the afternoon. Note that all tour stops are not confirmed and changes may occur.

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| **Date**  | **Activities** | **Location** |
| **June 18, 2018** | **Welcome** | Carmel Mission Inn3665 Rio RoadCarmel, CA 93923 |
| Evening | Dinner on your own |
| **Day 1 June 19, 2018** | **2018 California Nursery Conference** | Elks Lodge121 Martinelli St.Watsonville, CA 95076 |
| 7:00 am | Vans depart Carmel Mission Inn |
| 8:30 am | Speakers include, in no particular order: |
|  | Jim Owen, Virginia Tech |  |
|  | Tom Fernandez, Michigan State Univ. |  |
|  | Paul Fisher Univ. Florida |  |
|  | Bridget Behe, Michigan State Univ.  |  |
|  | Dewayne Ingram, Univ. Kentucky |  |
|  | Don Merhaut, UC Riverside |  |
|  | John Lea-Cox, Univ. Maryland |  |
|  | Sarah White, Clemson Univ. |  |
|  | Raul Cabrera, Rutgers Univ. |  |
|  | Steve Tjosvold, UCCE Santa Cruz County |  |
| 4:30 pm | Conference adjourn |  |
| 5:00 pm | Vans leave to return to Carmel Mission Inn |  |
|  | Dinner on your own  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Day 2 June 20, 2018** | **Grower Nursery Tours** |  |
| 7:00 am | Vans depart Carmel Mission Inn |  |
| 8:30 am | Buses depart UCCE Santa Cruz | UCCE Santa Cruz County1432 Freedom Blvd.Watsonville, CA 95076 |
| 8:55 am | Arrive Four Winds Growers | 887 Casserly RdWatsonville, CA 95076 |
| 9:55 am | Depart Four Winds Growers |  |
| 10:10 am | Arrive Pacific Plug & Liner | 650 Casserly Rd.Watsonville, CA 95076 |
| 11:10 am | Depart Pacific Plug and Liner |  |
| 11:25 am | Arrive Suncrest Nurseries | 400 Casserly Rd.Watsonville, CA 95076 |
| 12:25 pm | Depart Suncrest Nurseries |  |
|  | Box lunch on bus |  |
| 1:10 pm | Arrive Monterey Bay Nursery | 748 San Miguel Canyon Rd.Royal Oaks, CA 95076 |
| 2:10 pm | Depart Monterey Bay Nursery |  |
| 2:45 pm | Arrive Kitayama Bros | 481 San Andreas Rd.Watsonville, CA 95076 |
| 3:45 pm | Depart Kitayama Bros |  |
| 4:15 pm | Arrive UCCE Santa Cruz | 1432 Freedom Blvd.Watsonville, CA 95076 |
| 4:45 pm | Vans leave to return to Carmel Mission Inn |  |
|  | Dinner on your own |  |
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| **Day 3 June 21, 2018** | **USDA NC-1186 & S-1065 Joint Meeting** |  |
| 8:00 am  | Vans leave from Carmel Mission Inn |  |
| 9:00-9:15 am | Welcome by host Maria de la Fuente (UCCE) | UC Cooperative Extension Monterey County, 1432 Abbott StreetSalinas, CA 93901Phone: (831) 759-7350 |
| 9:15-10:30 am | Introductions and station reports  |
| 10:30-10:45 am | *Coffee break* |
| 10:45 am-12:30 pm | Continue station reports |
| 12:30-1:30 pm | *Lunch* |  |
| 1: 30-3:45 pm  | Collaborative efforts and future steps |  |
| 3:45-4:00 pm | *Coffee break* |  |
| 4:00-5:00 pm | **Independent Business Meetings*** Approval of the 2017 meeting minutes
* Suggestions for new members
* Administrative Advisor’s report
* Possibility for future meeting
* Nomination and election of incoming secretary
* Meeting date(s) and location 2019
* Member announcements
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| 5:30 pm | Vans leave for Carmel Mission Inn |  |
|  | Dinner on your own  |  |

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| **Day 4 June 22, 2018** | Optional Tours | Salinas Area |
| 7:45 am  | Vans leave from Carmel Mission Inn |  |
| 8:15 am | Tanimura and Antle (www.taproduce.com) | T&A is a large produce grower based in Salinas. Hopefully we can see their Plant Tape field transplanting, broccoli harvesting and hydrocooling, and prepared-bagged salad processing  |
| 2:00 pm | Floricultura | We will visit the Salinas location of the Netherlands-based company. Floricultura is one of the largest producers of potted orchids. We will see their mechanized and robotic production system as well as beautiful flowering plants.  |
| 3:00 pm | Tour concludes |  |
| Conclusion of activities |