

Form **990**  
Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

# Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)  
▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public  
▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990)

OMB No 1545-0047  
**2016**  
**Open to Public Inspection**

**A For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning 07-01-2016, and ending 06-30-2017**

- B** Check if applicable:  
 Address change  
 Name change  
 Initial return  
 Final  
 Return/terminated  
 Amended return  
 Application pending

**C** Name of organization  
Western Growers Assurance Trust Fund

Doing business as

Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite  
15525 Sand Canyon Ave

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code  
Irvine, CA 92618

**D** Employer identification number  
95-2500201

**E** Telephone number  
(949) 863-1000

**G** Gross receipts \$ 251,028,969

**F** Name and address of principal officer  
David Zanze  
15525 Sand Canyon Ave  
Irvine, CA 92618

**H(a)** Is this a group return for subordinates?  Yes  No  
**H(b)** Are all subordinates included?  Yes  No  
If "No," attach a list (see instructions)  
**H(c)** Group exemption number ▶

**I** Tax-exempt status  501(c)(3)  501(c) ( 9 ) ◀ (insert no)  4947(a)(1) or  527

**J** Website: ▶ www.wgat.com

**K** Form of organization  Corporation  Trust  Association  Other ▶

**L** Year of formation 1957 **M** State of legal domicile CA

**Part I Summary**

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities  
Western Growers Assurance Trust provides Western Growers' members with plans, options and prices for group healthcare benefit programs that are offered to its employees

**2** Check this box  if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets

<b>3</b> Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	7
<b>4</b> Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	7
<b>5</b> Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2016 (Part V, line 2a)	218
<b>6</b> Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	7
<b>7a</b> Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	1,868,233
<b>7b</b> Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	517,732

	Prior Year	Current Year
<b>8</b> Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	0	0
<b>9</b> Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	210,218,568	223,896,442
<b>10</b> Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	2,451,408	1,868,233
<b>11</b> Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	0	925,472
<b>12</b> Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	212,669,976	226,690,147
<b>13</b> Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	0	0
<b>14</b> Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	176,250,512	183,256,963
<b>15</b> Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	13,295,138	13,971,697
<b>16a</b> Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
<b>b</b> Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 0		
<b>17</b> Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	23,805,216	25,428,008
<b>18</b> Total expenses Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	213,350,866	222,656,668
<b>19</b> Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	-680,890	4,033,479

	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
<b>20</b> Total assets (Part X, line 16)	97,943,543	104,735,880
<b>21</b> Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	53,611,903	57,916,749
<b>22</b> Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	44,331,640	46,819,131

**Part II Signature Block**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

**Sign Here**  
Signature of officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 2018-05-07  
Ward Kennedy SVP/CFO  
Type or print name and title

**Paid Preparer Use Only**  
Print/Type preparer's name: Lauren A Haverlock  
Preparer's signature: Lauren A Haverlock  
Date: 2018-05-04  
Check  if self-employed PTIN: P00545829  
Firm's name: Moss Adams LLP  
Firm's EIN: 91-0189318  
Firm's address: 10960 Wilshire Blvd Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
Phone no: (310) 477-0450

**Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission

WESTERN GROWERS ASSOCIATION'S MISSION IS TO ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS AND PROFITABILITY OF OUR MEMBERS, AND TO LEAD OUR MEMBERS AND THE FRESH PRODUCE INDUSTRY TOWARD A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE AND PROFITABLE FUTURE

**2** Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?  Yes  No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

**3** Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?  Yes  No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

**4** Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

**4a** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )  
See Additional Data

**4b** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4c** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4d** Other program services (Describe in Schedule O )  
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4e** Total program service expenses ▶

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i> . . . . .		No
<b>2</b> Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)? . . . . .		No
<b>3</b> Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i> . . . . .		No
<b>4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i> . . . . .		
<b>5</b> Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i> . . . . .		No
<b>6</b> Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>7</b> Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>8</b> Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>9</b> Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>10</b> Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>11</b> If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
<b>a</b> Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i> 🗑️ . . . . .	Yes	
<b>b</b> Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>c</b> Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>d</b> Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>e</b> Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> 🗑️ . . . . .	Yes	
<b>f</b> Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> 🗑️ . . . . .	Yes	
<b>12a</b> Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i> 🗑️ . . . . .	Yes	
<b>b</b> Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i> 🗑️ . . . . .		No
<b>13</b> Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i> . . . . .		No
<b>14a</b> Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? . . . . .		No
<b>b</b> Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>15</b> Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>16</b> Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>17</b> Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i> (see instructions) . . . . .		No
<b>18</b> Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i> . . . . .		No
<b>19</b> Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i> . . . . .		No

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)**

	Yes	No
<b>20a</b> Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
<b>21</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>22</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III . . . . .</i>		No
<b>23</b> Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J . . . . .</i>	Yes	
<b>24a</b> Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? . . . . .		
<b>c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? . . . . .		
<b>d</b> Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? . . . . .		
<b>25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I . . . . .</i>		
<b>b</b> Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I . . . . .</i>		
<b>26</b> Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>27</b> Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III . . . . .</i>		No
<b>28</b> Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)		
<b>a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>c</b> An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M . . . . .</i>		No
<b>30</b> Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M . . . . .</i>		No
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I . . . . .</i>		No
<b>32</b> Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>33</b> Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I . . . . .</i>		No
<b>34</b> Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1 . . . . .</i>	Yes	
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		No
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2 . . . . .</i>		
<b>36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2 . . . . .</i>		
<b>37</b> Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI . . . . .</i>		No
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O . . . . .	Yes	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Main form area containing questions 1a through 14b with input fields and Yes/No columns.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O See instructions

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI [X]

Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year; 1b Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent; 2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?; 3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?; 4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?; 5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?; 6 Did the organization have members or stockholders?; 7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?; 7b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?; 8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following; 8a The governing body?; 8b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?; 9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O.

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?; 10b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?; 11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?; 11b Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990; 12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13; 12b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?; 12c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done; 13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?; 14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?; 15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?; 15a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official; 15b Other officers or key employees of the organization; 16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?; 16b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?

Section C. Disclosure

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 17 List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed; 18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply; 19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year; 20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records.

**Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

**Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees**

**1a** Complete this table for all persons required to be listed Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any See instructions for definition of "key employee "
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List persons in the following order individual trustees or directors, institutional trustees, officers, key employees, highest compensated employees, and former such persons

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) DAVID GILL CHAIRMAN	0 25	X		X				0	0	0
(2) JOHN D'ARRIGO VICE CHAIRMAN	0 25	X		X				0	0	0
(3) TOM FINN TRUSTEE	0 25	X						0	0	0
(4) DENNIS JOHNSTON TRUSTEE	0 25	X						0	0	0
(5) JOHN MAULHARDT TRUSTEE	0 25	X						0	0	0
(6) STEPHEN F PATRICIO TRUSTEE	0 25	X						0	0	0
(7) RON RATTO TRUSTEE	0 25	X						0	0	0
(8) John Wilkinson Trustee	0 25	X						0	0	0
(9) THOMAS A NASSIF PRESIDENT/CEO	20 00			X				582,508	582,508	38,926
(10) DAVID ZANZE Executive VP	24 00			X				237,645	158,431	33,396
(11) WARD KENNEDY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/CFO	12 00			X				87,693	204,617	43,382
(12) PATRICIA BENKOWSKI VP of Insurance Operations	28 00				X			156,563	67,098	29,262
(13) JONATHAN ALEXANDER General Legal Counsel	40 00					X		253,145	0	37,740
(14) LAWRENCE J LABRIOLA ASST VP OF UNDERWRITING	40 00					X		177,626	0	28,339
(15) Lesslie D WILLIAMS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	26 00					X		123,721	66,618	29,610
(16) Robert Twidwell ASSISTANT VP ADMIN	28 00					X		136,649	58,564	26,417
(17) Candis Klewler Director of Manager	40 00					X		151,313	0	12,426

**Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees** (continued)

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
<b>1b Sub-Total</b>										
<b>c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A</b>										
<b>d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)</b>							1,906,863	1,137,836	279,498	

**2** Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **▶** 10

<b>3</b> Did the organization list any former officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
		No
<b>4</b> For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	Yes	
<b>5</b> Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		No

**Section B. Independent Contractors**

**1** Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
Change Healthcare PO Box 572490 Murray, UT 84157	Data Processing	401,233
Emdeon PO Box 572490 Murray, UT 84157	Data Processing	222,973
Sir Speedy 40 Teslo Suite B Irvine, CA 92618	Printing	192,824
Aerotek Professional Services 3689 Collection Ctr Dr Chicago, IL 60693	Contract worker placement service	164,646
S & L International 150 East Colorado Blvd Suite 203 Pasadena, CA 91105	Software maintenance services	151,880

**2** Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization **▶** 6



**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	<b>1a</b> Federated campaigns . . .	<b>1a</b>					
	<b>b</b> Membership dues . . .	<b>1b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events . . .	<b>1c</b>					
	<b>d</b> Related organizations	<b>1d</b>					
	<b>e</b> Government grants (contributions)	<b>1e</b>					
	<b>f</b> All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	<b>1f</b>					
	<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ _____						
	<b>h Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f . . . . .						
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>			Business Code				
	<b>2a</b> EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION		525920	223,896,442	223,896,442		
	<b>b</b> _____						
	<b>c</b> _____						
	<b>d</b> _____						
	<b>e</b> _____						
	<b>f</b> All other program service revenue						
<b>g Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f . . . . .			223,896,442				
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) . . . . .			1,584,255		1,584,255	
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds						
	<b>5</b> Royalties . . . . .						
	<b>6a</b> Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
		<b>b</b> Less rental expenses					
		<b>c</b> Rental income or (loss)					
		<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss) . . . . .					
	<b>7a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
		<b>b</b> Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
		<b>c</b> Gain or (loss)					
		<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss) . . . . .			283,978		283,978
	<b>8a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 . . . . .	<b>a</b>					
		<b>b</b> Less direct expenses . . . . .	<b>b</b>				
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . . . .					
	<b>9a</b> Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19 . . . . .	<b>a</b>					
<b>b</b> Less direct expenses . . . . .		<b>b</b>					
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . . . .							
<b>10a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances . . . . .	<b>a</b>						
	<b>b</b> Less cost of goods sold . . . . .	<b>b</b>					
	<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . . . .						
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
<b>11a</b> Income Tax Refunds/Accruals		900099	908,544			908,544	
<b>b</b> Miscellaneous Revenue		900099	16,928			16,928	
<b>c</b> _____							
<b>d</b> All other revenue . . . . .							
<b>e Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d . . . . .			925,472				
<b>12 Total revenue.</b> See Instructions . . . . .			226,690,147	223,896,442	1,868,233	925,472	

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

<b>Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.</b>	<b>(A)</b> Total expenses	<b>(B)</b> Program service expenses	<b>(C)</b> Management and general expenses	<b>(D)</b> Fundraising expenses
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21.				
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22.				
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, line 15 and 16.				
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members	183,256,963			
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees . . . . .	1,152,346			
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) . . . . .				
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages	8,766,766			
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401 (k) and 403(b) employer contributions) . . . . .	694,558			
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits . . . . .	2,012,279			
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes . . . . .	1,345,748			
<b>11</b> Fees for services (non-employees)				
<b>a</b> Management . . . . .	64,284			
<b>b</b> Legal . . . . .	137,361			
<b>c</b> Accounting . . . . .	58,853			
<b>d</b> Lobbying . . . . .				
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17.				
<b>f</b> Investment management fees . . . . .	441,057			
<b>g</b> Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	16,964,690			
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion . . . . .				
<b>13</b> Office expenses . . . . .	1,968,202			
<b>14</b> Information technology . . . . .	516,897			
<b>15</b> Royalties . . . . .				
<b>16</b> Occupancy . . . . .	1,313,395			
<b>17</b> Travel . . . . .	133,781			
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials . . . . .				
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings . . . . .	41,590			
<b>20</b> Interest . . . . .				
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates . . . . .				
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization . . . . .	625,253			
<b>23</b> Insurance . . . . .	237,819			
<b>24</b> Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
<b>a</b> ACA Taxes & Fees	1,973,318			
<b>b</b> REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	400,842			
<b>c</b> Federal & Income Tax	338,468			
<b>d</b> Misc expenses	212,198			
<b>e</b> All other expenses				
<b>25</b> Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	222,656,668			
<b>26</b> Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

**Part X Balance Sheet**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash—non-interest-bearing . . . . .	864,266	<b>1</b>	4,322,649
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments . . . . .	40,371,016	<b>2</b>	48,635,589
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net . . . . .		<b>3</b>	
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net . . . . .	796,710	<b>4</b>	292,135
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L		<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L		<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net . . . . .		<b>7</b>	
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use . . . . .		<b>8</b>	
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges . . . . .	1,986,172	<b>9</b>	2,028,827
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	<b>10a</b> 4,220,224		
	<b>b</b> Less accumulated depreciation	<b>10b</b> 2,377,337	2,289,159	<b>10c</b> 1,842,887
	<b>11</b> Investments—publicly traded securities . . . . .	50,519,907	<b>11</b>	45,435,441
	<b>12</b> Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		<b>12</b>	
	<b>13</b> Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		<b>13</b>	
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets . . . . .		<b>14</b>	
	<b>15</b> Other assets See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .	1,116,313	<b>15</b>	2,178,352
<b>16</b> <b>Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34) . . . . .	97,943,543	<b>16</b>	104,735,880	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses . . . . .	11,339,327	<b>17</b>	9,444,621
	<b>18</b> Grants payable . . . . .		<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue . . . . .	175,661	<b>19</b>	208,520
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities . . . . .		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D		<b>21</b>	
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .		<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .		<b>24</b>	
	<b>25</b> Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D	42,096,915	<b>25</b>	48,263,608
	<b>26</b> <b>Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 . . . . .	53,611,903	<b>26</b>	57,916,749
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.</b> Unrestricted net assets		<b>27</b>	
	<b>28</b> Temporarily restricted net assets . . . . .		<b>28</b>	
	<b>29</b> Permanently restricted net assets		<b>29</b>	
	<b>30</b> <b>Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>and complete lines 30 through 34.</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds . . . . .	44,331,640	<b>30</b>	46,819,131
	<b>31</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund . . . . .	0	<b>31</b>	0
	<b>32</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	0	<b>32</b>	0
	<b>33</b> <b>Total net assets or fund balances</b> . . . . .	44,331,640	<b>33</b>	46,819,131
	<b>34</b> <b>Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances</b> . . . . .	97,943,543	<b>34</b>	104,735,880

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12) . . . . .	<b>1</b>	226,690,147
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25) . . . . .	<b>2</b>	222,656,668
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1 . . . . .	<b>3</b>	4,033,479
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A)) . . . . .	<b>4</b>	44,331,640
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments . . . . .	<b>5</b>	4,509,109
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses . . . . .	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments . . . . .	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O) . . . . .	<b>9</b>	-6,055,097
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	<b>10</b>	46,819,131

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

	Yes	No
<p><b>1</b> Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p>If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O</p>		
<p><b>2a</b> Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?</p> <p>If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis</p>		No
<p><b>b</b> Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?</p> <p>If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis</p>	Yes	
<p><b>c</b> If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?</p> <p>If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O</p>	Yes	
<p><b>3a</b> As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?</p>		No
<p><b>b</b> If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits</p>		

## Additional Data

**Software ID:**

**Software Version:**

**EIN:** 95-2500201

**Name:** Western Growers Assurance Trust Fund

Form 990 (2016)

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### Form 990, Part III, Line 4a:

It is Western Growers' vision to guide our members toward a healthy, sustainable and profitable future by offering quality services and programs that complement their businesses. Western Growers Assurance Trust provides Western Growers members with plans, options and prices for group healthcare benefit programs that are offered to its employees of which consist of growers, packers, shippers and processors of fresh fruit, vegetables and nuts.

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**SCHEDULE D**  
(Form 990)

**Supplemental Financial Statements**

OMB No 1545-0047  
**2016**  
**Open to Public Inspection**

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.  
▶ Attach to Form 990.

Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Name of the organization**  
Western Growers Assurance Trust Fund

**Employer identification number**  
95-2500201

**Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.**  
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
<b>1</b> Total number at end of year		
<b>2</b> Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
<b>3</b> Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
<b>4</b> Aggregate value at end of year		

**5** Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?  Yes  No

**6** Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?  Yes  No

**Part II Conservation Easements.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

**1** Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)

Preservation of land for public use (e g , recreation or education)  Preservation of an historically important land area

Protection of natural habitat  Preservation of a certified historic structure

Preservation of open space

**2** Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

	Held at the End of the Year
<b>a</b> Total number of conservation easements	<b>2a</b>
<b>b</b> Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	<b>2b</b>
<b>c</b> Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	<b>2c</b>
<b>d</b> Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	<b>2d</b>

**3** Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**5** Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?  Yes  No

**6** Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**7** Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**8** Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?  Yes  No

**9** In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.**  
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

**1a** If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

**b** If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2** If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items

**a** Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**b** Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets** *(continued)*

- 3** Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)
- a**  Public exhibition
  - b**  Scholarly research
  - c**  Preservation for future generations
  - d**  Loan or exchange programs
  - e**  Other
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?  Yes  No

**Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?  Yes  No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table
- |  | Amount |
|--|--------|
| <b>c</b> Beginning balance             |        |
| <b>d</b> Additions during the year     |        |
| <b>e</b> Distributions during the year |        |
| <b>f</b> Ending balance                |        |
- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?  Yes  No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

**Part V Endowment Funds.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
<b>1a</b> Beginning of year balance . . . . .					
<b>b</b> Contributions . . . . .					
<b>c</b> Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
<b>d</b> Grants or scholarships . . . . .					
<b>e</b> Other expenditures for facilities and programs . . . . .					
<b>f</b> Administrative expenses . . . . .					
<b>g</b> End of year balance . . . . .					

- 2** Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as
- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶
  - b** Permanent endowment ▶
  - c** Temporarily restricted endowment ▶
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%
- 3a** Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by
- |  |               |    |
|--|---------------|----|
|  | Yes           | No |
| <b>(i)</b> unrelated organizations . . . . .   | <b>3a(i)</b>  |    |
| <b>(ii)</b> related organizations . . . . .  | <b>3a(ii)</b> |    |
| <b>b</b> If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? . . . . . | <b>3b</b>     |    |
- 4** Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

**Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
<b>1a</b> Land . . . . .				
<b>b</b> Buildings				
<b>c</b> Leasehold improvements		297,535	69,490	228,045
<b>d</b> Equipment . . . . .		2,740,092	1,855,128	884,964
<b>e</b> Other . . . . .		1,182,597	452,719	729,878
<b>Total.</b> Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c)) . . . ▶				1,842,887

**Part VII Investments—Other Securities.** Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives . . . . .		
(2) Closely-held equity interests . . . . .		
(3) Other _____		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 12 )		

**Part VIII Investments—Program Related.** Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 13 )		

**Part IX Other Assets.** Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d See Form 990, Part X, line 15

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 15 )	

**Part X Other Liabilities.** Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
PLAN BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS	47,234,063
DUE TO AFFILIATES	1,029,545
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 25 )	48,263,608

**2.** Liability for uncertain tax positions In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740) Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII



**Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements . . . . .	<b>1</b>	230,290,712
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12		
<b>a</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments . . . . .	<b>2a</b>	4,509,109
<b>b</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Recoveries of prior year grants . . . . .	<b>2c</b>	
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>	
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .	<b>2e</b>	4,509,109
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>	225,781,603
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line <b>1</b> :		
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>	908,544
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .	<b>4c</b>	908,544
<b>5</b>	Total revenue. Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12) . . . . .	<b>5</b>	226,690,147

**Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements . . . . .	<b>1</b>	221,748,124
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25		
<b>a</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Prior year adjustments . . . . .	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Other losses . . . . .	<b>2c</b>	
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>	-908,544
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .	<b>2e</b>	-908,544
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>	222,656,668
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line <b>1</b> :		
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .	<b>4c</b>	0
<b>5</b>	Total expenses. Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18) . . . . .	<b>5</b>	222,656,668

**Part XIII Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
See Additional Data Table	

**Part XIII** Supplemental Information *(continued)*

Return Reference	Explanation

## Additional Data

**Software ID:**

**Software Version:**

**EIN:** 95-2500201

**Name:** Western Growers Assurance Trust Fund

## Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Part X, Line 2	<p>The trust established under the Plan to hold the Plan's assets is intended to be qualified under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(9) and be exempt from federal income taxes under IRC Section 501(a). The Plan received a favorable tax exemption letter, dated December 6, 1974, from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Management of the Plan believes that at the trust, as amended, continues to qualify and operate in accordance with applicable provisions of the IRC. The Plan has investments that potentially generate unrelated business income that is shown as interest and dividends and net (depreciation) appreciation in fair value of investments on the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits. Pursuant to section 511 of the IRC, the Plan has recorded tax on a portion of this income in the amount of approximately \$30,000 and \$940,000 as provision for income taxes in the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The Plan filed amended returns for the fiscal years 2013, 2014 and 2015 and has received refunds in the amount of approximately \$517,000 for a portion of prior years' taxes paid. The Plan's return for the fiscal year 2016 reflected an overpayment of approximately \$722,000, \$600,000 of which was received as a refund while approximately \$122,000 was applied to the Plan's fiscal year 2017 liability.</p>

## Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Part XI, Line 4b - Other Adjustments	Federal Income Tax Refund 908,544

## Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Part XII, Line 2d - Other Adjustments	Federal Income Tax Refund -908,544

**Schedule J**  
**(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Compensation Information**

OMB No 1545-0047

**For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees**  
**▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.**  
**▶ Attach to Form 990.**

**2015**  
**Open to Public Inspection**

**▶ Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).**

Name of the organization Western Growers Assurance Trust Fund	Employer identification number 95-2500201
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**Part I Questions Regarding Compensation**

	Yes	No								
<p><b>1a</b> Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments	<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees	<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)		
<input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use									
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence									
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments	<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees									
<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)									
<b>b</b> If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain.	1b	Yes								
<b>2</b> Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?	2	Yes								
<p><b>3</b> Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study	<input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee				
<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract									
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study									
<input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee									
<b>4</b> During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:										
<b>a</b> Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?	4a	No								
<b>b</b> Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?	4b	No								
<b>c</b> Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?	4c	No								
If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.										
<b>Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.</b>										
<b>5</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:										
<b>a</b> The organization?	5a									
<b>b</b> Any related organization? If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.	5b									
<b>6</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:										
<b>a</b> The organization?	6a									
<b>b</b> Any related organization? If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.	6b									
<b>7</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.	7									
<b>8</b> Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III.	8									
<b>9</b> If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?	9									

**Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees.** Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII.

**Note.** The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column(B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 THOMAS A NASSIF PRESIDENT/CEO	(i)	392,469	158,045	31,994	13,250	6,213	601,971	0
	(ii)	392,469	158,045	31,994	13,250	6,213	601,971	0
2 DAVID ZANZEE Executive VP	(i)	204,167	29,878	3,600	15,900	4,138	257,683	0
	(ii)	136,112	19,919	2,400	10,600	2,758	171,789	0
3 WARD KENNEDY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/CFO	(i)	74,834	11,059	1,800	7,950	5,065	100,708	0
	(ii)	174,612	25,805	4,200	18,550	11,817	234,984	0
4 PATRICIA BENKOWSKI VP of Insurance Operations	(i)	143,926	12,637	0	15,656	4,827	177,046	0
	(ii)	61,682	5,416	0	6,710	2,069	75,877	0
5 JONATHAN ALEXANDER General Legal Counsel	(i)	232,357	20,788	0	25,314	12,426	290,885	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 LAWRENCE J LABRIOLA ASST VP OF UNDERWRITING	(i)	166,920	10,706	0	17,763	10,576	205,965	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Lesslie D WILLIAMS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	(i)	114,013	9,708	0	12,372	6,874	142,967	0
	(ii)	61,391	5,227	0	6,662	3,702	76,982	0
8 Robert Twidwell ASSISTANT VP ADMIN	(i)	127,889	8,760	0	13,665	4,827	155,141	0
	(ii)	54,810	3,754	0	5,856	2,069	66,489	0
9 Candis Kliewer Director of Manager	(i)	151,313	0	0	0	12,426	163,739	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Part III Supplemental Information**

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
Schedule J, Part I, Line 1A	FIRST CLASS OR CHARTER TRAVEL The CEO is permitted to fly first class on longer business trips and charter airplane travel when circumstances dictate, usually for travel into rural areas of California and Arizona. This is not treated as taxable compensation. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CLUB DUES CERTAIN EMPLOYEES HAVE ACCESS TO SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE BUSINESS PURPOSE OF CULTIVATING MEMBER/TRUSTEE AND OTHER BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS. FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR, SOCIAL CLUB DUES OF \$7,475 WERE PAID TO SOCIAL CLUBS WHERE THE CEO WAS A MEMBER. THIS WAS DETERMINED TO BE NON-TAXABLE BENEFITS SINCE IT HAD A BONA FIDE BUSINESS PURPOSE. HOUSING ALLOWANCE OR RESIDENCE FOR PERSONAL USE PRESIDENT IS PROVIDED A SECONDARY RESIDENCE FOR HIS PERSONAL USE WHILE WORKING AT THE COMPANY HEADQUARTERS IN IRVINE, CALIFORNIA. THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THIS BENEFIT IS REPORTED AS TAXABLE COMPENSATION ON HIS W-2. Tax Indemnification and gross up payments The president received gross up payments on housing benefit and life insurance policy. The value is included in W2 as taxable compensation.
Schedule J, Part I, Line 4	RELATED ORGANIZATION COMPENSATION PRACTICES FOR CEO COMPENSATION FOR THE CEO IS DETERMINED BY A RELATED ORGANIZATION USING THE FOLLOWING METHODS: COMPENSATION COMMITTEE, INDEPENDENT COMPENSATION CONSULTANT, COMPENSATION SURVEY OR STUDY AND APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OR COMPENSATION COMMITTEE.



**Additional Data**

**Software ID:**  
**Software Version:**  
**EIN:** 95-2500201  
**Name:** Western Growers Assurance Trust Fund

**Form 990, Schedule J, Part II - Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees**

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column (B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		(i) Base Compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 THOMAS A NASSIF PRESIDENT/CEO	(i)	392,469	158,045	31,994	13,250	6,213	601,971	0
	(ii)	392,469	158,045	31,994	13,250	-	601,971	0
1 DAVID ZANZE Executive VP	(i)	204,167	29,878	3,600	15,900	4,138	257,683	0
	(ii)	136,112	19,919	2,400	10,600	-	171,789	0
2 WARD KENNEDY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/CFO	(i)	74,834	11,059	1,800	7,950	5,065	100,708	0
	(ii)	174,612	25,805	4,200	18,550	-	234,984	0
3 PATRICIA BENKOWSKI VP of Insurance Operations	(i)	143,926	12,637	0	15,656	4,827	177,046	0
	(ii)	61,682	5,416	0	6,710	-	75,877	0
4 JONATHAN ALEXANDER General Legal Counsel	(i)	232,357	20,788	0	25,314	12,426	290,885	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
5 LAWRENCE J LABRIOLA ASST VP OF UNDERWRITING	(i)	166,920	10,706	0	17,763	10,576	205,965	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
6 Leslie D WILLIAMS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	(i)	114,013	9,708	0	12,372	6,874	142,967	0
	(ii)	61,391	5,227	0	6,662	-	76,982	0
7 Robert Twidwell ASSISTANT VP ADMIN	(i)	127,889	8,760	0	13,665	4,827	155,141	0
	(ii)	54,810	3,754	0	5,856	-	66,489	0
8 Candis Kliever Director of Manager	(i)	151,313	0	0	0	12,426	163,739	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	-	0	0

**SCHEDULE O**  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No 1545-0047

**2016****Open to Public Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

Western Growers Assurance Trust Fund

Employer identification number

95-2500201

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 11b	THE WESTERN GROWERS ASSURANCE TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE WESTERN GROWERS COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REVIEW CERTAIN PARTS OF FORM 990 THE ORGANIZATION'S CFO WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE OUTSIDE TAX FIRM IT ENGAGES TO PREPARE AND REVIEW THE FORM 990 RETURN PRIOR TO SUBMITTING A DRAFT TO THE TRUSTEES OR THE WESTERN GROWERS COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

<b>Return Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 12c	<p>THE BOARD IS CHARGED WITH MONITORING PROPOSED OR ONGOING TRANSACTIONS FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND ADDRESSING ANY POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL CONFLICTS PURSUANT TO THE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY, AN ANNUAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE, AIMED AT DETERMINING ANY FAMILY AND BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS OR OTHER TRANSACTIONS THAT MAY POSE A POTENTIAL CONFLICT, IS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL COVERED PERSONS (I.E., BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP OR KEY EMPLOYEES) COVERED PERSONS ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE REAL OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS AT THE TIME WHEN SUCH CONFLICTS ARISE WHEN SOMEONE BECOMES A COVERED PERSON AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, EACH COVERED PERSON IS REQUIRED TO SIGN A STATEMENT AFFIRMING THAT HE/SHE (1) HAS RECEIVED A COPY OF THE CONFLICTS OR INTEREST POLICY, (2) HAS READ THE POLICY AND UNDERSTANDS SAID POLICY, AND (3) AGREES TO COMPLY WITH ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE POLICY, INCLUDING COMPLETING THE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DISCLOSURE FORM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS DIRECTED IN-HOUSE COUNSEL TO REVIEW THE COMPLETED FORMS TO ASSESS WHETHER ANY PERSONS WITH ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS ARE INFORMED VIA WRITTEN COMMUNICATION THE PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING (1) THE CONFLICTING INTEREST IS FULLY DISCLOSED TO THE BOARD, (2) THE INTERESTED PERSON RESPONDS TO FACTUAL QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TRANSACTION OR ARRANGEMENT BEING CONSIDERED, AFTER WHICH HE/SHE SHALL LEAVE THE MEETING, (3) THE PERSON WITH THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST IS EXCLUDED FROM THE DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF SUCH TRANSACTION, (4) ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION ARE INVESTIGATED, COMPETITIVE BIDS OR COMPARABLE VALUATIONS ARE OBTAINED, AND (5) THE TRANSACTION OR ACTION MUST BE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF DISINTERESTED PERSONS</p>

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 15a	<p>THE BOARD APPOINTS A COMPENSATION COMMITTEE, COMPRISED SOLELY OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS, NONE OF WHICH HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH RESPECT TO THE COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENT, TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR SETTING REASONABLE COMPENSATION PACKAGES FOR THE CEO, AND REVIEWING THE REASONABLENESS OF MANAGEMENT'S RATIONALE AND BASIS FOR THE OTHER OFFICERS OR KEY EMPLOYEES</p> <p>THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REVIEWS AND APPROVES THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND CRITERIA TO BE USED IN DETERMINING MERIT INCREASES AND VARIABLE COMPENSATION CRITERIA FOR OFFICERS AND KEY EMPLOYEES</p> <p>THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE ALSO HIRES A QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS SPECIALIST (INDEPENDENT EXPERT) TO REVIEW, ANALYZE AND PROVIDE BENCHMARKING DATA FOR THE TOTAL COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS PACKAGES OF OFFICERS AND KEY EMPLOYEES</p> <p>APPROPRIATE COMPARABILITY DATA IS OBTAINED FROM THE INDEPENDENT EXPERTS, I E , TOTAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS PAID BY SIMILARLY SITUATED ORGANIZATIONS (BOTH TAXABLE AND TAX-EXEMPT) FOR SIMILAR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>ALL DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS ARE DOCUMENTED IN THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING MINUTES INCLUDING THE TERMS OF THE TRANSACTION AND DATE APPROVED, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT FOR DELIBERATIONS AND WHO VOTES, AND THE DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPARABILITY DATA AND HOW OBTAINED</p> <p>THESE PROCEDURES ARE CARRIED OUT PERIODICALLY AND WERE PERFORMED</p> <p>THE PRESIDENT/CEO'S 2016 COMPENSATION WAS APPROVED AT A BOARD MEETING ON JULY 27, 2016</p>

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

<b>Return Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Form 990, Part VI, Section C, line 19	WHILE FEDERAL TAX LAWS DO NOT MANDATE THAT THE ORGANIZATION'S GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION, THE ORGANIZATION MAKES THESE DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

## 990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part XI, line 9	Change in claim obligations -6,055,097

**SCHEDULE R  
(Form 990)**

**Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships**

OMB No 1545-0047

**2016**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35b, 36, or 37.

▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ Information about Schedule R (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization  
Western Growers Assurance Trust Fund

**Employer identification number**

95-2500201

**Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33.

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity

**Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
<b>(1)</b> WESTERN GROWERS ASSOCIATION 15525 SAND CANYON AVENUE  Irvine, CA 92618 95-1362030	MEMBER SERV	CA	501(C)(6)	n/a	N/A		No
<b>(2)</b> WESTERN GROWERS FOUNDATION 15525 SAND CANYON AVENUE  IRVINE, CA 92618 93-1201791	FUNDRAISING	CA	501(C)(3)	Line 7	Western Growers Association		No
<b>(3)</b> WESTERN GROWERS PAC- CA 15525 SAND CANYON AVENUE  IRVINE, CA 92618 33-0723238	PAC	CA	527	N/A	Western Growers Association		No
<b>(4)</b> WESTERN GROWERS PAC- AZ 15525 SAND CANYON AVENUE  IRVINE, CA 92618 33-0723241	PAC	CA	527	N/A	Western Growers Association		No
<b>(5)</b> WESTERN GROWERS PAC - FED 15525 SAND CANYON AVENUE  IRVINE, CA 92618 33-0723234	PAC	CA	527	N/A	Western Growers Association		No

**Part III Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income(related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	

**Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512 (b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No
<b>(1)</b> WESTERN GROWERS SERVICE CORP 15525 Sand Canyon Irvine, CA 92618 33-0783743	dp/adm/insur	CA	Western Growers Association	C	-1,765,876	6,058,332			No
<b>(2)</b> PINNACLE CLAIMS MANAGEMENT INC 15525 Sand Canyon IRVINE, CA 92618 33-0812456	ADMIN SVCS	CA	Western Growers Association	C	4,232,256	22,221,187			No
<b>(3)</b> WESTERN GROWERS FINANCIAL SERVICES 15525 Sand Canyon IRVINE, CA 92618 91-2038676	ADVISORY SVCS	CA	Western Growers Association	C	205,511	855,800			No
<b>(4)</b> Western Growers Insurance Services 15525 Sand Canyon IRVINE, CA 92618 46-3215026	Insurance Brokerage Agency	CA	Western Growers Association	C	2,136,594	2,432,840			No



**Part V Transactions With Related Organizations** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.

**Note.** Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule

		Yes	No
<b>1</b> During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?			
<b>a</b>	Receipt of <b>(i)</b> interest, <b>(ii)</b> annuities, <b>(iii)</b> royalties, or <b>(iv)</b> rent from a controlled entity . . . . .		No
<b>b</b>	Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>c</b>	Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>d</b>	Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>e</b>	Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>f</b>	Dividends from related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>g</b>	Sale of assets to related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>h</b>	Purchase of assets from related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>i</b>	Exchange of assets with related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>j</b>	Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>k</b>	Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>l</b>	Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s) . . . . .	Yes	
<b>m</b>	Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s) . . . . .	Yes	
<b>n</b>	Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s) . . . . .	Yes	
<b>o</b>	Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s) . . . . .	Yes	
<b>p</b>	Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses . . . . .	Yes	
<b>q</b>	Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses . . . . .	Yes	
<b>r</b>	Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s) . . . . .		No
<b>s</b>	Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s) . . . . .		No

**2** If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds

(a) Name of related organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved

**Part VI Unrelated Organizations Taxable as a Partnership** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 37.

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships

(a) Name, address, and EIN of entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(e) Are all partners section 501(c)(3) organizations?		(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
				Yes	No			Yes	No		Yes	No	

**Part VII** **Supplemental Information**

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R (see instructions)