



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)  
March 8, 2017, Meeting Minutes  
4437 South Laspina St., Tulare, CA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mark Golden, Chair  
Scott Woods, Vice Chair  
Seth Wollenman  
Michael Stark  
Keeley Bramer

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Tom Tucker – Tulare County  
Jonathan Bixler, Tulare County  
Christopher Greer – Tulare County  
Scotti Walker, Fresno County  
Eddy Greynolds – Kern County  
Raymond Valles- Kern County  
Chris Messer, USDA, NASS  
Korinne Bell - Ventura County  
Tim Fritch - Ventura County  
Steve Schweizer- Kings County

**CDFA**

Steve Patton  
Marcee Yount  
Stacey Hughes  
Karrie Batchelor  
Andrea Todd  
Laurel Rudolph

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Al Bates

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL**

The Committee was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mr. Mark Golden, Chair. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: COMMITTEE TERMS AND VACANCIES**

Ms. Laurel Rudolph reported on committee terms and current vacancies. Currently, there are four producer member vacancies: one of navel and valencia from the San Joaquin Valley; one of lemons from Ventura County; one of navel and valencia, mandarin, or lemons from Riverside and Kern County; one of navel and valencia from Tulare County. There are also two handler member vacancies: one from any citrus category and one handler of lemons in Ventura County.

**ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

a. November 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Golden asked for a motion to approve the November 9, 2016 meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Scott Woods moved to approve the November 9, 2016, meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Seth Wollenman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

b. November 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Golden asked for a motion to approve the November 28, 2016 meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Michael Stark moved to approve the November 28, 2016 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Seth Wollenman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

#### **ITEM 4: AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS- 2017/18 Cost**

Ms. Chris Messer from the United States Department of Agricultural (USDA), National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) discussed the objective measurement. She stated that the proposed increase in costs are necessary to address issues with staffing and data collection.

Ms. Messer also discussed the objective measurement proposal for cara caras and mandarins. Ms. Messer explained that NASS needs shipping data in order to validate the objectives for cara caras. Ms. Messer is also looking for information to determine the size of mandarins at the various stages in order to develop a regression model. Old data is available, but may not be a good source in which to base a survey on. Both cara cara shipping information and mandarin regression models are needed before NASS can move forward with the new forecasts. Ms. Messer also noted that they would need several years to validate the surveys before they can publish them.

Ms. Messer also mentioned that for the next two years, NASS will be conducting their acreage survey, and will be not be able to start the cara cara and mandarin objective measurements until 2018-19 crop year. The committee decided to hold off on adding funds to the FY 2017/18 budget for the additional objective measurements. The committee will also follow up on the shipping and sizing information NASS is requesting and will report back at the fall meeting.

#### **ITEM 5: COUNTY ACTIVITY AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016/17**

Fresno County inspected 747 premises, 573 lots, and a total of 1,047,654 containers with no rejections. The County used 55% of their total budget.

Kern County inspected 204 premises, 238 lots, and a total of 1,077,497 containers, with no lots rejected. They issued one noncompliance due to color issues. The County conducted 238 maturity tests, and used 50% of their total budget.

Riverside County inspected 7 premises, 23 lots and a total of 16,800 containers, with no rejections. The County conducted 23 maturity tests, and used 20% of their total budget.

Santa Clara County inspected 6 premises, 28 lots and a total of 29,650 containers, with no rejections. The County conducted 28 maturity tests, and used 24% of their total budget.

Tulare County inspected 658 premises, 850 lots and a total of 925,715 containers, with no rejections. The County conducted 825 maturity tests, and used 16% of their total budget.

Ventura County inspected 34 premises, 88 lots and a total of 122,228 containers, with no rejections. The County reported exceeding their total budget by approximately \$18,000. They stated that additional expenses were incurred due to a higher volume of fruit being received in their county because of renovations at another packing facility. Funds were also used to experiment with staffing and workload schedules.

The counties in attendance were available for questions or comments. Ms. Batchelor noted that approximately \$13,000 of the Program's total cost was used for frost monitoring.

## **ITEM 6: BUDGET REVIEW/APPROVAL**

### **a. FY 2016/17 Fund Condition**

Ms. Karrie Batchelor provided the fund condition report. As of December 31, 2016, the total current resources and projected resources for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016/17 were \$3,626,594.42, and the total anticipated expenditures were \$396,836.00. The fund balance total resources by June 31, 2017 are estimated to be \$3,229,758.42.

### **b. FY 2017/18 Proposed Citrus County Cooperative Agreements**

Ms. Batchelor provided FY 2017/18 proposed Citrus County Cooperative Agreements. The proposals include funding to operate a twelve week orange maturity inspection program in each of the citrus counties. The total funded for FY 2017/18 is \$478,110, which is proposed to be allocated to each county as follows:

- Fresno County: \$118,243
- Kern County: \$97,599
- Riverside County: \$15,388
- Santa Clara County: \$7,438
- Tulare County: \$222,442
- Ventura County: \$17,000

Ventura County's citrus cooperative agreement was increased for the proposed FY 2017/18 by \$9,000.

### **c. FY 2017/18 Proposed Citrus Program Budget**

Ms. Batchelor discussed the Proposed Citrus Program Budget. The projected fund balance for FY 2017/18 is \$3,267,373. The projected revenue is \$422,558. The projected revenue shown for each commodity is based on a proposed .001 assessment rate for the next season, starting October 2017. The expected available resources for

FY 2017/18 is \$3,689,931. The proposed expenditures are \$803,868, with an ending balance of \$2,886,063.

Ms. Batchelor also discussed the increase in the Bank of America account service charges. During the last two fiscal years the service charges have increased by over \$2000 using up most of the earned interest of \$3,252. The Committee then discussed considering closing the Bank of America account and move that money into the State Agriculture (Ag.) Fund. The committee discussed the pros and cons of moving the money and decided to close the Bank of America account.

**MOTION:** Mr. Scott Woods moved to close the Bank of America account and move the funds into the Agricultural Fund. Mr. Keeley Bramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

#### **d. FY 2017/18 Projected Revenue**

Ms. Batchelor reviewed the current and proposed citrus assessment rates with the committee. After much discussion regarding the proposed budget and Program's reserve fund, it was decided that a lower the rate of \$.003 per carton for navels and valencia's and \$.001 per carton for lemons and mandarins would be an appropriate funding level for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Golden asked for a motion to lower the assessment rates.

**MOTION:** Mr. Michael Stark moved to lower the assessment rates to \$.003 per carton for navels and valencia's, and \$.001 per carton for lemons and mandarins. Mr. Seth Wollenman seconded the motion. The motion passed, with no abstentions.

Mr. Golden then asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget.

**MOTION:** Mr. Seth Wollenman moved to approve FY 2017/18 proposed budget with the amended assessment rates. Mr. Scott Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed, with no abstentions.

### **ITEM 7: CITRUS FREEZE EXPENSES**

Mr. Steve Patton provided a presentation explaining the additional expenses to the Department during a freeze year. He gave a brief history of the Citrus Program and explained how the monies collected for the Program are allocated. Mr. Patton went on to list some of the State personnel administrative activities that occur when coordinating a Freeze Inspection Program. Additional activities include: scheduling and noticing multiple meetings, preparation of statistical and financial reports, and numerous correspondence with county personnel and committee members. Additional monies for the counties are also needed for enforcement when a freeze is declared which requires amendments be made to all county contracts. Mr. Patton explained that during a freeze year, CDFA staff spends a considerable amount of additional time for the Citrus Program. Mr. Patton recommended that during freeze years that have a number of freeze activities, including numerous additional meetings, the Citrus Program be charged for cost recovery for the added work that is required of the Department.

Keeley Bramer discussed adding to the citrus budget as an item expense. After some discussion, Mr. Golden asked for a motion to approve his recommendation.

**MOTION:** Mr. Keeley Bramer moved to reimburse CDFA during freeze years for their related expenses. Mr. Michael Stark second the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

### **ITEM 8: PROGRAM UPDATES**

Ms. Hughes mentioned that the changes to the avocado regulations were adopted December, 2016. These regulatory changes repeal standard container requirements, container weight requirements, and amend labeling requirements.

Ms. Hughes also mentioned that Department received a petition from the California Fresh Fruit Association. The petition asked for a regulatory change that would repeal the varietal marking requirement when packing apricots. In 2006, the tree fruit industry repealed their varietal marking requirement section in the regulations. When the regulations were written, apricots were omitted from the changes. The newly proposed regulatory change will align the marking and labeling requirements for apricots with the rest of the tree fruit industry.

Ms. Batchelor discussed the mandarin experimental container and pack permits. There are currently 15 experimental containers and pack permit issued. Several of the permits are on their second renewal, with no more renewals available. Ms. Batchelor emphasized the need for the industry to draft a petition for a regulatory change if they want to move forward with standardizing the new container and pack. This would need to take place prior to the permits expiring. The earliest issued permits will expire the end February of 2018.

Mr. Patton gave an update on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has received funds for the program and want to first use those funds for education and outreach. The FDA will start working with the produce industry to develop models for training in order to make certain the industry is knowledgeable of the new rules. He also mentioned that the required compliance date is January 1, 2018, and that all farms in California must send at least one person to a produce safety training. The Produce Safety Alliance website, along with CDFA will make trainings available all throughout California.

**ITEM 9: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Patton presented Mr. Golden, who has termed out, with a Resolution, thanking him for his many years of commitment and service to CCAC.

**ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING DATE/ FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be November 16, 2017, in Tulare County.

**ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Golden asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Michael Stark moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 am. Mr. Keeley Bramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Karrie Batchelor, Agriculture Program Supervisor I  
Inspection and Compliance Branch  
Inspection Services