



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
November 15, 2018, Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina St., Tulare, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Woods, Chair
Al Bates, Vice-Chair
Michael Stark
George McEwen
David Tomlinson
Brad Bishel
Keeley Bramer

INTERESTED PARTIES

Christopher Greer, Tulare County
Jonathan Bixler, Tulare County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Angel Gibson, Fresno County
Eddy Greynolds, Kern County
Raymond Valles, Kern County
Delia Cioc, Riverside County
Brenda Hill, USDA, NASS
Steve Schweizer, Kings County

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Stacey Hughes
Karrie Batchelor
Thomas Osborn

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Mayhew

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Scott Woods, Chair. Roll was called, self-introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Scott Woods, Chair, opened the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Keeley Bramer moved to nominate Scott Woods for the position of Chair, and Al Bates for the position of Vice-Chair. George McEwen seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 4: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- i. March 6, 2018
- ii. March 29, 2018

Scott Woods requested a motion to approve the March 6, 2018 and March 29, 2018 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Mike Stark moved to approve the March 6, 2018 and March 29, 2018 meeting minutes as submitted. Keeley Bramer seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Thomas Osborn reported on committee terms and current vacancies. Currently, there are four producer member vacancies: one of navels from the San Joaquin Valley; one of lemons from Ventura County; one of navels and valencias, mandarins, or lemons from Riverside and Kern County; and one of navels and valencias from Fresno County. Thomas Osborn went on to state that reappointments will take place in September of 2019.

ITEM 6: FUND CONDITION REPORT

Karrie Batchelor provided the Fund Condition report. As of July 1, 2018, the fund balance was \$3,169,949. The projected revenue for the remaining fiscal year was reported at \$369,541. Total projected expenditures are \$757,791, with an anticipated fund balance of \$2,781,698 at the end of the fiscal year.

ITEM 7: CDFA UPDATES

Steve Patton, Branch Chief of the CDFA Inspection and Compliance Branch, provided those in attendance with an update on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR). He explained that the PSR is currently in effect for large farms, and that the CDFA Produce Safety Program (PSP) will conduct inspections of California farms on behalf of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). CDFA PSP staff are in the process of conducting On-Farm Readiness Review (OFRR) sessions to assist farmers in preparing for PSR standards. Steve Patton encouraged those in attendance to work with growers in registering for an OFRR session.

Steve Patton went on to discuss PSR enforcement prioritization. He explained that enforcement will initially focus on large farms, and those which produce higher-risk commodities. Steve Patton also noted that CDFA and County staff are in the process of creating educational materials for producers subject to PSR requirements. He encouraged interested parties to visit the CDFA PSP website, which contains information pertaining to PSR requirements and OFRR registration.

Karrie Batchelor informed those in attendance that a regulation package pertaining to mandarin and tangerine container and size requirements was signed into effect by the Secretary of State in August of 2018. She went on to state that one experimental pack and one experimental container permit for oranges have been issued by the CDFA Standardization Program. She explained that firms packing citrus in nonstandard containers or nonstandard packs must first obtain an experimental permit and described the process involved.

It was requested by the Committee that the Citrus Program's current spending authority be made available at the next meeting.

ITEM 8: NASS FORECAST SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Mike Stark, Chair of the NASS Forecast Subcommittee, provided the Subcommittee update. He stated that the Subcommittee had met via teleconference in September to discuss National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecast surveys for Cara Cara and Mandarin varieties of citrus. He went on to state that the Subcommittee had expressed interest in focusing on Clementine, Tango and Murcott varieties of mandarin. Mike Stark reported that he and Al Bates agreed to provide the mandarin sizing information that was needed for the survey. He also reported that NASS would not be able to begin the mandarin survey until 2020 and publish in 2025. Mike Stark also reviewed the startup cost was \$150,000 and then \$115,000 annually.

Brenda Hill of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NASS provided an updated cost estimate of the data collection. She explained that attaining a coefficient of variation (CV) level of 15% for Navels and Cara Caras will cost approximately \$207,000.

Stacey Hughes noted that the Committee will vote to approve the additional funding required for the NASS forecast data collection at the March 2019 budget meeting.

MOTION: Keeley Bramer moved to proceed with the NASS Forecast on Cara Caras using a 15% coefficient of variation for the 2019/2020 season. Al Bates seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

A period of discussion ensued, regarding continuation of Subcommittee meetings. It was decided that the NASS Forecast Subcommittee will coordinate with CDFA staff to hold a teleconference in advance of the March 2019 CCAC meeting.

ITEM 9: AG STATISTICS

There was no additional information to report.

ITEM 10: COUNTY REPORTS

Karrie Batchelor first explained that during the March 6, 2018 CCAC meeting, the Committee requested each County provide an overview of their citrus programs. The counties in attendance provided an overview their respective orange maturity testing programs and reported on the current season.

Christopher Greer gave an overview of Tulare County's citrus program. He reported the county is broken up into 8 districts with a total of 52 citrus packinghouses. Permanent staff perform multiple duties in addition to orange maturity testing and work weekends, holidays and overtime. Christopher Greer went on to share additional information related to their citrus program. He then gave an update on the current season's orange

testing results. Tulare County started receiving Kern County fruit on October 15, 446 maturity tests had been performed to date with no rejections.

Steve Schweizer reported that Kings County has one citrus packinghouse that is organic. All work is invoiced to the Standardization program since Kings is not one of the six counties in statute funded through the citrus program. Steve Schweizer went on to discuss orange maturity reporting loads started arriving the last week of October. They've tested 4 loads originating from Tulare County. No issues with color or rejections reported.

Ed Greynolds reported that Kern County staff consists of seasonal and full-time employees performing multiple duties. Kern County conducts maturity tests at six packinghouses along with utilizing mobile presses. Fifty one percent of the maturity work is done with mobile presses providing courtesy color and maturity checks for growers during harvest. Ed Greynolds then went on to report Kern's navel harvest began on October 15. Color is no longer an issue and one rejection reported on October 31.

Delia Cioc discussed Riverside's program which includes four packinghouses in Riverside and one packinghouse in San Bernadino County. The citrus inspection program employs full-time and seasonal inspectors performing multiple duties. Weekend work is provided with advanced notification. Delia Cioc noted their packinghouses usually begin receiving central valley fruit in October and local fruit in late December. After providing additional program information, Delia Cioc went on to discuss the current season indicating they have performed two orange maturity tests and both passed.

Scotti Walker and Angel Gibson gave a brief overview of Fresno County's program. Scotti Walker indicated they have 21 citrus packinghouses with 16 receiving navels. Fresno uses permanent and seasonal staff which only perform orange maturity. Distance to packinghouses can be an average of 30 miles with the farthest at 60 miles. Additional information about Fresno's program was provided. Scotti Walker then went onto report on the season with navels arriving in Fresno County on October 16. They've performed 487 orange maturity tests without any rejections.

A period of discussion pertaining to differences in County accounting programs, utilization of staff, inspection procedures, billing procedures, and employee travel needs ensued.

Karrie Batchelor gave reports for those counties not in attendance:

Ventura County uses two to four permanent staff to conduct orange maturity testing. They currently have three packing houses receiving navels and the distance to these packinghouses is between 20 and 30 miles one way. Overtime is usually performed due to loads arriving later in the day. This year's navel season began on October 22 and they have received nine loads. Color is good, and no rejections reported.

San Diego County reported receiving fruit on October 23. They have received 10 loads, all testing above 100. Color is not a problem and no rejections to report.

MOTION: Scott Woods moved to stop maturity testing on December 7, 2018 allowing the counties discretion to test if needed, and to allow southern California Counties to test their local fruit. Brad Bishel seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING/ FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

A teleconference meeting to discuss freeze temperatures will also be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. by Scott Woods, Chair.

Respectfully submitted by:



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