



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
March 6, 2018, Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina St., Tulare, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Woods, Chair
Seth Wollenman, Vice Chair
Al Bates
Michael Stark
George McEwen
David Tomlinson
Brad Bishel
Tom Mayhew
Keeley Bramer

INTERESTED PARTIES

Christopher Greer, Tulare County
Jonathan Bixler, Tulare County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Sam Sohal, Fresno County
Eddy Greynolds, Kern County
Raymond Valles, Kern County
Delia Cioc, Riverside County
Chris Messer, USDA, NASS
Steve Schweizer, Kings County
Joel Reyes, California Citrus Mutual
Spencer LaVelle, USDA NASS

CDFA

Marcee Yount
Stacey Hughes
Karrie Batchelor
Thomas Osborn
Jeff Cesca

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Scott Woods, Chair. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: COMMITTEE TERMS AND VACANCIES

Mr. Thomas Osborn reported on committee terms and current vacancies. Currently, there are three producer member vacancies: 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.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. November 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes
- b. December 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Woods asked for a motion to approve the November 16, 2017 and December 5, 2017 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Mr. George McEwen moved to approve the November 16, 2017 and December 5, 2017 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Tom Mayhew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: FREEZE TEMPERATURES/FREEZE DAMAGE REPORTS

Ms. Karrie Batchelor provided the committee with an overview of recent freezing temperatures over the week of February 19th and freeze damage inspections. Ms. Batchelor explained that some navel oranges and mandarins field samples collected by counties showed scorable freeze damage. CDFA requested that County Agricultural Commissioners perform spot inspections for freeze damage at packinghouses on mandarins and navels harvested from the San Joaquin valley after February 20th. Counties were to work within their current budgets.

Ms. Batchelor asked the County Agricultural Commissioners in attendance to report on their findings pertaining to temperatures, field samples, and spot inspections at packing houses.

Kern County reported below freezing temperatures the week of February 19th with two locations below 25 degrees for two to four hours on February 20th. Five field samples were collected including three navel samples, one mandarin, and one lemon sample. All samples were cut and had scoreable evidence of freeze damage except the lemons. Three additional samples were pulled showing scorable evidence of damage.

Kern County went on to give a summary of packing house spot inspections including 21 navel lots with no scoreable damage or rejections. Twenty-one mandarin lots inspected with one official inspection having scoreable evidence of damage. No rejections reported.

Tulare County reported below freezing temperatures the week February 19th. Six locations recorded below 26 degrees for two to three hours and two locations reaching as low as 23 degrees. Seven field samples were collected and two samples had scorable damage. Spot inspections at packing houses were performed totaling 246 lots. Ten lots exhibiting scorable damage and no rejections.

Fresno County reported during the week of the 19th that they observed temperatures below 26 degrees for several hours. Spot inspections were conducted at packing houses with minimal evidence of freeze damage observed. One lot had one fruit with scorable damage.

Riverside County reported no freezing temperatures. There were no field samples collected or spot inspections performed. The county will perform spot checks on citrus fruit originating from the San Joaquin Valley that was harvested after February 20th.

Ms. Batchelor gave the following reports for counties not in attendance:

Ventura County reported temperatures below 28 degrees for 30 minutes. Spot inspections were performed at two packing houses. Six lots were inspected and no damage was observed.

San Diego County did not have any freeze concerns to report. Currently, only local fruit is being picked and packed.

CDFA staff observed below freezing temperatures the week of February 19th in Madera County. February 20th showed temperatures below 24 degrees for four hours. CDFA staff collected and inspected two field samples. No damage found in the navels and the mandarin sample showed 27 percent scoreable damage and 66 percent evidence of damage. Four additional mandarin samples were collected and inspected. The samples ranged from 15 to 33 percent scoreable damage.

MOTION: Mr. Tom Mayhew moved to have counties work within their current budget to conduct spot inspections on mandarins, and to present their report during a teleconference on March 29, at 10:00 a.m. Spot inspections will be performed from March 19-29, allowing for spot checks on navel oranges if need be. Mr. Keeley Bramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 6: COUNTY ACTIVITY AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/18

Ms. Batchelor discussed attachment C and noted the summary showed county activities and expenses through December of 2017.

A discussion followed regarding Fresno County's expenses and the percentage of budget used to date, which is higher than other counties. It was requested by the committee that all citrus counties provide a detailed report outlining the number of packing houses in the county, the distance between packing houses, inspection costs, and staff reimbursement. Discussion of these reports will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Item 7: AG Statistics Update

a. Report on Navel Sampling

Ms. Chris Messer from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) discussed the Objective Measurement (OM) Survey. Ms. Messer also gave an overview of crop forecast survey methodology. She explained that NASS has been working on improving the coefficient of variation (CV) data for navel oranges, while relaxing the CV data for valencia oranges. NASS will accomplish this by increasing the sample size of navel oranges, while decreasing the sample size of valencia oranges. The cost for this would be \$156,000 for navels and \$65,000 for valencias working within the current 2018/19 budgeted cost of \$221,000.

Mr. Spencer LaVelle from the USDA described the procedures that NASS uses to collect OM survey data in the field.

MOTION: Mr. Al Bates moved to accept the new NASS sampling size targets of 760 navels and 290 valencias. Mr. Keeley Bramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Ms. Messer also discussed the OM Survey proposal for cara caras and mandarins. Ms. Messer asked the committee if they still wanted NASS working to determine the sample size and cost required to assess the OM for cara caras and mandarins. Cara caras are currently included in the OM for navels however, Ms. Messer explained that NASS requires shipping data from the Citrus Research Board (CRB) for cara caras. Ms. Messer went on to discuss the need for a size degradation chart for mandarins as well as what specific varieties would be part of the measurement before NASS can move forward with the new forecasts.

Ms. Messer went on to explain that NASS is conducting their acreage survey for the next year, and will be unable to begin the cara cara and mandarin OM survey until the 2019/20 crop year. She reminded the committee that it will require several years of data collection before NASS can validate and publish the survey results.

MOTION: Mr. Woods moved to set up a new subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Michael Stark, to plan the implementation of the mandarin and cara cara NASS forecast. Mr. McEwen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Bates abstaining.

Mr. Stark, Mr. Bates, Mr. Bramer, Mr. Seth Wolleman, and Mr. Brad Bishel volunteered to serve as members of the new subcommittee.

ITEM 8: BUDGET REVIEW/APPROVAL

a. FY 2017/18 Fund Condition

Ms. Batchelor provided the fund condition report. As of December 31, 2017, the total current and projected resources for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017/18 were \$3,536,190, and the total anticipated expenditures were \$607,059. The fund balance total resources by June 30, 2018 are estimated to be \$2,929,131.

b. FY 2018/19 Proposed Citrus County Cooperative Agreements

Ms. Batchelor provided the FY 2017/18 proposed Citrus County Cooperative Agreements. Ms. Batchelor noted that Santa Clara County is no longer included in the Citrus County Agreement. The total funding for FY 2018/19 is \$470,672, which is proposed to be allocated to each county as follows:

- Fresno County: \$118,243

- Kern County: \$97,599
- Riverside County: \$15,388
- Tulare County: \$222,442
- Ventura County: \$17,000

c. FY 2018/19 Proposed Citrus Program Budget

Ms. Batchelor discussed the Proposed Citrus Program Budget. The projected beginning fund balance for FY 2018/19 is \$3,172,889, with projected revenue of \$382,278. The projected revenue shown for each commodity is based on continuing an assessment rate of .003 for navels and valencias, and .001 for lemons and mandarins. The expected available resources for FY 2018/19 is \$3,555,166. The proposed expenditures are \$747,420, with an ending balance of \$2,807,746. Ms. Batchelor also noted that the 2018/19 Proposed Citrus Program Budget Ending Balance does not include interest on the Ag Fund balance, which is expected to be approximately \$700.

d. FY 2018/19 Projected Revenue

The committee discussed the possibility of future changes to assessment rates. The committee members stated that they feel comfortable with current assessment rates, and that current reserve fund levels are appropriate to avoid funding shortages during freeze years. Mr. Woods suggested that the committee revisit the topic at next year's CCAC budget meeting.

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

MOTION: Mr. Woods moved to approve the FY 2018/19 Proposed Citrus Program Budget, and maintain assessment rates at their current levels. Mr. Stark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 9: PROGRAM UPDATES

Ms. Batchelor informed the committee that a rulemaking packet pertaining to mandarin container and size regulations has been published in the Office of Administrative Law California Regulatory Notice Register as of March 2, 2018. These regulatory changes propose a new standard container and modifying an existing standard container as well as adding a numeric size. The proposed regulations are open to public comment until April 16, 2018.

Ms. Batchelor presented Mr. Wollenman, 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 Thursday, November 15, 2018, at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Woods adjourned the meeting at 12.09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karrie Batchelor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "B".

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