



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION (SPI) ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes
2600 Sand Dunes Drive, Monterey CA**

Members Present

Louis Pandol -Chair
Roman Olivas
Mark Reasons

CDFA Representatives

Steve Patton
Kevin Batchelor
Roxann Bramlage
Greg Dake
Theresa Stewart
Laurel Rudolph

Members Absent

Christine Ivory

Interested Parties

Ian Lemay - CA Fresh Fruit
Association
Nate O'Connor - USDA
Alex Wladyszewski - USDA

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Mr. Louis Pandol, Chairman. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Steve Patton asked the committee to reconsider Section 1.6 in the Committee Procedures, Officer term limits. After some discussion it was decided that position of Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve a three year term.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Reasons moved to extend the term of Chair and Vice-Chair to a three year term. Mr. Roman Olivas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Mr. Patton asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Reasons moved to elect Mr. Louis Pandol as Chairman for the newly extended term. Mr. Roman Olivas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Mr. Pandol asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Roman Olivas moved to elect Mr. Mark Reasons as Vice-Chairman for the new extended term. Mr. Louis Pandol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Pandol asked for a motion to approve the May 6, 2016 meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION: Ms. Roman Olivas moved to approve the May 6, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Mark Reasons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 4: VACANCIES

Ms. Laurel Rudolph discussed the committee vacancies and terms update. Currently, there are five voting member vacancies that consist of four members who are shippers of fruit and vegetables, and one public member who is a resident of this state and not a producer, shipper, or a processor. Additionally, there are nine alternate non-voting member vacancies.

Those whose terms expire on December 31, 2017 are: Mr. Louis Pandol, Ms. Christine Ivory, and Mr. Roman Olivas.

Mr. Patton asked the Committee to help recruit members to fill the vacant seats.

ITEM 5: SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Kevin Batchelor gave the commodity program update. He discussed some of the upcoming changes within the SPI Program. He mentioned that the almond database is almost complete and should be live and online by the summer of 2017. He also mentioned that the Program is working to change the current accounting database due to inconsistencies in billing and reporting, and the database is moving forward, but there is no completion date as of yet.

ITEM 6: COMMODITY PROGRAMS UPDATE

Mr. Greg Dake gave a commodities update. He mentioned that a good number of commodity harvests were down this year due to the drought.

In the 2015/16 Fiscal Year (FY) there were 3,453 potato inspections. There are decreasing numbers of potato acreage every year in California, especially of the russet variety, because of the year round supply from other states, such as Idaho.

There were 16,216 table grape inspections conducted during the 2015/16 FY. The inspections increased this year due to a larger crop size than the 2014/15 FY.

There were 1,173 pistachio inspections conducted during the 2015/16 FY. The crop has significantly increased this year, with over 600 million pounds produced.

There were 24,526 almond inspections conducted during the 2015/16 FY. Inspection amounts were the same as last year, due to the crop size staying consistent throughout the last few FYs.

Ms. Roxanne Bramlage provided a commodity and audit report for the 2015/16 FY.

She mentioned that the olive oil production was on the rise, with more handlers now producing olive oil. There are approximately 20-25 processors of olive oil throughout the state, including two new processors in Northern California.

The program has started its annual inspections of apricots as well as processed grapes.

Pears had a heavy bloom this season, and will produce more fruit than last year's season.

Ms. Theresa Stewart provided a commodity and audit report for the 2015/16 FY.

Ms. Stewart reported that 79,558,540 pounds of cherries were produced during the 2015/16 FY. It is projected that the cherry crop will double during the 2016/17 FY season.

There were more onion inspections conducted during the 2015/16 FY, due to the increase of imported onions.

ITEM 7: FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Steve Patton discussed the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). On October 31, 2015, the FSMA rules were released. The rules are expected to establish standards for growing, harvesting, packing, and holding produce on domestic and foreign farms.

CDFA was awarded \$11 million to be split during a 5 year period. Year one was spent planning and implementing a new program called the Environmental Auditing Unit

(EAU). This program will be charged with implementing the Produce Safety Rule. They also spent time creating materials for the education and outreach component of the program, and the creation of the farm inventory. The EAU will build the farm inventory with the help of CACASA using their pesticide use report to gain farmer information. The new program will also start working with private companies to help with the grower training classes required of all farms that fall under the Produce Safety Rule.

ITEM 8: BUDGET APPROVAL

a. Fund Condition Statement

Mr. Batchelor discussed the 2016/17 FY fund condition. As of March 2017, the beginning balance was \$17,301,116. The total revenue was \$7,219,509, the total expenditures were \$8,621,894, with the total ending Ag Fund Reserve balance at \$15,897,072.14.

b. FY 2017/18 Proposed Budget

Mr. Batchelor presented the 2017/18 FY budget. The total for Personal Services is \$1,641,224 with the Operation Expenses and Equipment total being \$12,213,061, which includes funds for the almond database and the new accounting program. The total departmental expenditures are \$1,010,266, the total program budget for the 2017/18 FY is \$14,660,395.

Mr. Pandol asked for a motion to approve the 2017/18 FY budget as submitted and to keep the spending levels as they are.

MOTION: Mr. Roman Olivas moved to approve the 2017/18 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget as submitted. Mr. Mark Reasons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 9: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Patton asked the United States Department of Agriculture to work with the Food and Drug Administration to incorporate the Produce Safety Rule into the Harmonized Audit to lessen audit fatigue.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be in late April of 2018, in Fresno, at the California Fresh Fruit Association offices.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. by Mr. Pandol.

Respectfully submitted by:



Kevin Batchelor, Program Supervisor
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services