



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

June 12, 2025

Referendum Notice
To Consider Immediate Termination of the Quota Implementation Plan
Voting Period Ends: September 10, 2025

To the California Market Milk Producer Addressed:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) is conducting a referendum vote among California Market Milk Producers to consider whether the Quota Implementation Plan (QIP) should be terminated effective immediately. The Department received a petition titled "Petition to Terminate the QIP #5" resubmitted by StopQIP on August 6, 2024. The proposal in the petition was to ask the Secretary to call a referendum to immediately terminate the QIP. The Department performed a review of the petition signatures and their respective reported volume and determined that the twenty-five (25%) threshold had been achieved. The petition was referred to the Producer Review Board (PRB) for consideration and at a meeting held on December 17, 2024, the PRB recommended to the Secretary that the petition go to an industry referendum. After due consideration, the Secretary agreed with the PRB's recommendation.

A copy of the notice to industry regarding the Secretary's decision can be viewed here:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dairy/pdf/notices/2025_QIP_Petition_for_Referendum_Notice.pdf.

The current QIP can be viewed here:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dairy/pdf/QuotaImplementationPlan.pdf>.

A "Yes" vote to the referendum would immediately terminate the QIP.

A "No" vote will result in no change to the existing QIP.

Voting Information and Criteria for Approval: Enclosed with this notice are a referendum ballot, a ballot checklist and a postage paid return envelope. The ballot and checklist contain instructions on how to properly certify your voting eligibility and how to cast your vote. April 2025 production volume information for your voting entity(ies) is included on the ballot and will be used when determining whether the requirements set forth in FAC Section 62717 have been met (see Approval Requirements below). In order for your ballot to be counted, properly date and sign the certification section, and clearly indicate a "yes" or "no" vote and return to the Department in the postage paid return envelope. Please be advised that only valid ballots **postmarked or otherwise received by this office no later than September 10, 2025 will be tallied**. No extensions will be available past the 90-day voting period.



Voter Eligibility: Each unique producer or ownership (including partnerships) is entitled to **ONE** vote. The names on the ballot are on record as authorized signatories for your producer entity. If you have ownership changes or are affiliated with a separate legal entity that did not receive a ballot, please contact David Ko in the Department's QAP at pooling@cdfa.ca.gov to establish eligibility and obtain an official ballot for that entity

Approval Requirements: The QIP cannot be terminated immediately unless the following criteria is achieved:

1. Not less than 51 percent of the total number of eligible market milk producers in the State submit valid ballots, **and**
2.
 - a. Of those voting, at least sixty-five percent (65%) of eligible producers, who produced fifty-one percent (51%) or more of the total amount of milk produced in the state during the calendar month next preceding the month commencement of the referendum period (in this case April 2025) by all producers who voted in the referendum, approve termination of the QIP **or**
 - b. Of those voting, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of eligible producers, who produced sixty-five percent (65%) or more of the total amount of fluid milk produced in the state during the calendar month next preceding the month commencement of the referendum period (in this case April 2025) by all producers who voted in the referendum, approve termination of the QIP.

Immediate termination: Immediate termination means all QIP assessments and payments will apply to assessable milk (see QIP Article 1. Definition) produced until the day the referendum results are announced. Assessable milk produced starting the day after the announcement would not qualify for any QIP assessments and payments. The Quota Administration Program (QAP) would continue to operate in an administrative capacity to wind down the Plan.

The Department will announce and notify all California Market Milk producers of the referendum results following tabulation of the ballots.

If you have any questions regarding the referendum, please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" document posted on the Department's website at the following link:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dairy/QIP2025-referendum/>

Or, contact David Ko with the Quota Administration Program at (916) 900-5012 and/or pooling@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathy Diaz

Kathy Diaz, Director

Division of Marketing Services

Digitally signed by Kathy Diaz
Date: 2025.06.10 06:46:59 -07'00'