



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

January 23, 2024

Sent Via Email to: haycraiggordon@aol.com

Mr. Craig Gordon
StopQIP
2915 Kings River LN
Ontario, CA 91761

Dear Mr. Gordon,

We are contacting you regarding the petition to call a referendum to reapprove the Quota Implementaiton Plan (QIP) titled "Petition to Reapprove the QIP #6" submitted by StopQIP and received by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) on November 28, 2023. In summary, the petition:

1. Petitions the Secretary to "call a referendum to reapprove the Quota Implementation Plan." It also states that "Assessment funded programs at CDFA are required to be reviewed every 5 years to determine if industry supports the continuation of the program. CDFA holds a continuation hearing where witnesses provide testimony regarding whether the program should be continued. If the hearing record contains overwhelming support for the continuation of the Stand-Alone Quota Program, the Secretary will announce its continuation. If the hearing record contains a mixture of both support and opposition, CDFA will hold a producer referendum to determine if the Stand-Alone Program will continue."
2. The petition also states that "The Secretary shall submit the referendum in the same manner as provided for its initial approval, under Article 11 Section 1103 of the QIP Plan."

Currently QIP does not include language that would to allow CDFA to conduct a continuation process periodically or otherwise; it only contemplates amendment and termination of the program. Additionally, Petition No. 6 includes pre-printed dates, and it was recently brought to CDFA's attention that Petition No. 6 was one of six alternative petitions which, in 2021, had been simultaneously prepared, disseminated and signed, for later periodic submission. Said petition mechanics are not acceptable; please refer to the letter Secretary Ross sent to you and the members of the Producer Review Board on December 16, 2023 for more details.

In view of the absence of authority under QIP to conduct a continuation referendum and the mechanics used to collect signatures for Petition No. 6 CDFA denies the petition.

Finally, we would like to remind you that the Quota Implementation Petition Procedures indicate a petition shall include:

- the producer name,
- producer number under the QIP program,



Mr. Craig Gordon
January 23, 2024
Page 2

- physical dairy ranch address,
- signature of the producer, and
- and original signature date that reflects the true date the producer signed the petition.

The procedures to submit petitions can be found at the following link:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dairy/pdf/QIP_PetitionProcedures.pdf

With this correspondence we are closing the process associated with the above named petition.

Sincerely,

Kathy Diaz Digitally signed by Kathy Diaz
Date: 2024.01.23 12:56:05 -08'00'
Kathy Diaz, Director
Marketing Services Division