



**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PETITION TO SUSPEND
CHAPTER 3.5 OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CODE**

Notice is hereby given that the California Department of Food and Agriculture is calling a public hearing to consider the suspension of Chapter 3.5 of the Food and Agricultural Code (62750 et seq).

This hearing is being called pursuant to Division 21, Part 3, Chapter 3.5, section 62752 of the Food and Agricultural Code, as implemented by the procedures described below and as later determined to be necessary.

Hearing Dates, Place and Time

April 7-8, 2020
8:00 am
Visalia Convention Center, Sierra Room
303 E Acequia Ave
Visalia, California 93291

Hearing Procedures

An administrative law judge shall preside over the hearing as Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer will administer the oath, receive evidence into the record, question witnesses, and determine the manner and order of witness testimony. A representative of the Attorney General's Office (AGO) will have the opportunity to question witnesses on behalf of the Secretary. No other questioning of witnesses will be allowed.

Exhibits and Testimony

A designee of the Secretary shall present exhibits into the record. Exhibits received in advance of the hearing will be available for public inspection at Department Headquarters beginning on March 30, 2020. All exhibits will also be available for review during the hearing.

Any interested person may file a written statement concerning the call of the hearing. Written statements may be any length, must be limited to the call of the hearing, signed, delivered personally or by mail to Department Headquarters any time after the notice of hearing, and shall be received by the Department prior to the close of the hearing.

Persons are encouraged to submit exhibits and witness statements in advance of the hearing at Department Headquarters to:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Legal Office
1220 N Street, Suite 315
Sacramento, California 95814

Testimony will be received under oath. A time limit for oral testimony will be determined by the Hearing Officer at the beginning of the hearing. Witnesses may supplement oral testimony with written testimony. At the conclusion of oral testimony, witnesses will be subject to questioning by the Hearing Officer and a representative of the AGO.

Any person who has testified under oath may be granted, upon request prior to the close of the hearing, to file a post-hearing brief to clarify or amplify their testimony. The brief must be filed within 10 calendar days following the close of the hearing.

Hearing Transcript

The hearing shall be recorded by a court reporter. Copies of the transcript may be obtained from the Department Legal Office at no charge.

