



February 21, 2025

Results of Amendment Referendum to the Quota Implementation Plan

TO THE CALIFORNIA MARKET MILK PRODUCER ADDRESSED:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) recently conducted a referendum vote among California Market Milk Producers within the State of California to determine whether the Quota Implementation Plan (QIP) effective November 1, 2018, should be amended to:

1. Change the quota differential from \$1.70/cwt (\$0.195/lb. of SNF) to \$1.00/cwt (\$0.115/lb. of SNF);
2. eliminate Regional Quota Adjusters (RQAs);
3. change language about hardships to match what was used in the Pooling Plan;
4. enhance clarity by rewording the definition of "producer":

The referendum was called as a result of a recommendation made by the Producer Review Board (PRB) to the Secretary to issue an industry referendum to consider the above modifications to the QIP.

In order for the amendments to be approved California Food and Agricultural Section 62717 specifies that:

Not less than fifty-one percent (51%) of the total number of eligible producers in the state shall have voted in the referendum **AND** one of the following criteria must be satisfied:

- a) Sixty-five percent (**65%**) or more of the **total number of eligible producers** who voted in the referendum who produced fifty-one percent (**51%**) 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 (August 2024) by all producers who voted in the referendum approve the plan, **OR**,
- b) Fifty-one percent (**51%**) or more of the **total number of eligible producers** who voted in the referendum 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 (August 2024) by all producers who voted in the referendum, approve the plan.

Summary of the Results of the Referendum Vote:

Proportion of Eligible Producers that participated:	61.81%
Proportion of those Eligible Producers Voting in Favor:	50.31%
Proportion of those Eligible Producers Voting in Opposition:	49.69%
Proportion of the Voted Volume Represented by Eligible Producers in Favor:	55.94%
Proportion of the Voted Volume Represented by Eligible Producers in Opposition:	44.06%



In summary, **61.81%** of the **total number of eligible producers** voted in the referendum, and 50.31% voting in favor, having produced **55.94%** of the **total amount of fluid milk** in the state, among participating producers, in August 2024. Conversely, **49.69%** voting in opposition, produced **44.06%** of the **total amount of fluid milk** in the state, among participating producers, in August 2024.

Explanation of Results:

61.81% of the total number of eligible market milk producers in the State voted, therefore the first criterion **was satisfied**.

Additionally, both elements of EITHER criterion in (a) OR (b) above must also be satisfied:

- a. The producers who accounted for **55.94%** of the fluid milk, produced by participants in the referendum, in August 2024 voted IN FAVOR, exceeding the threshold of 51% by 4.94%, thereby satisfying the first element; however, only **50.31%** of the number of eligible producers voted IN FAVOR, falling short of satisfying the threshold of 65% for the second element by 14.69%. **Therefore, because only one of the two elements were satisfied, the referendum is not adopted through this criterion.**
- b. **50.31%** of eligible producers voted IN FAVOR, falling short of satisfying the 51% threshold by 0.69%; AND, producers who accounted for **55.94%** of the total amount of fluid milk, produced by participants in the referendum, in August 2024 voted IN FAVOR, falling short of satisfying the threshold of 65% threshold by 9.06%. **Therefore, because neither of the two elements were satisfied, the referendum is not adopted through this criterion.**

Since the outcome of this referendum does not meet the criteria set forth in Section 62717 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, the amendments will not be incorporated into the Quota Implementation Plan. A further summary of the results is included with this notice.

If you have questions regarding the referendum, please contact the Quota Administration Program at (916) 900-5012.

Sincerely,

Kathy Diaz
Kathy Diaz, Director
Marketing Services Division

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Date: 2025.02.21 15:11:14
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

QUOTA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AMENDMENT REFERENDUM

Voting Period: October 11, 2024 – January 10, 2025*
Certification Results – February 20, 2025

Participation:

Number of valid ballots received:	479
Total number of producers on the list:	775
Percentage of producers on the list who submitted a valid ballot:	61.81%
Total August 2024 volume (in product pounds) represented by those submitting valid ballots:	2,450,516,711

In Favor of the Amendments to the Quota Implementation Plan:

Number of producers who voted in favor:	241
Percentage of producers who voted in favor:	50.31%
August 2024 product pounds represented by producers voting in favor:	1,370,936,275
Percentage of total product pounds represented by producers voting in favor:	55.94%

In Opposition of the Amendments to the Quota Implementation Plan:

Number of producers who voted in opposition:	238
Percentage of producers who voted in opposition:	49.69%
August 2024 product pounds represented by producers voting in opposition:	1,079,580,436
Percentage of total product pounds represented by producers voting in opposition:	44.06%

Miranda Townsend
Associate Agricultural Economist
CA Department of Food & Agriculture
Marketing Branch

*NOTE: Day of Mourning observed on January 9, 2025 - voting period extended one day to account for postmark)

