

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Coalinga, CA  
Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2007**

**Members Attending**

Jerry Preito, Jr.  
Jim Simonian  
Gilbert Coelho  
Mark Perez, Jr.

**CDFA Representatives**

Rick Jensen  
Steve Patton  
Andrew Valero  
Susan Shelton

**Interested Parties**

Rich Ordonez, Monterey County  
Gabrielle Kirkland, CA G&TFL  
Brett Kirkpatrick, CCAC

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL**

Mr. Jim Simonian called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. Ms. Susan Shelton called roll. Due to a lack of required members in attendance, a quorum was not established.

**ITEM 2: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS**

Mr. Steve Patton announced the Standardization Advisory Committee currently has four vacancies. The committee was encouraged to recommend those they feel would be interested in joining the committee.

**ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

This item will be carried over to the next meeting.

**ITEM 4: STANDARDIZED CONTAINER ASSESSMENTS**

Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick attended as a representative of the California Citrus Advisory Committee (CCAC). Mr. Kirkpatrick relayed CCAC's concerns regarding the meaning of "standard shipping container". Since standard containers are used for standardization and citrus assessments, CCAC is interested in setting one standard. CCAC believes the industry needs to set a clearly understood and defined packing size for assessment, especially as it relates to mandarin container size.

Mr. Simonian suggested CCAC provide a formal proposal to the Standardization Advisory Committee for defined "standard" containers as they relate to citrus commodity assessments. Mr. Kirkpatrick will take the issue back to CCAC.

**ITEM 5: REGULATION UPDATE**

**A. NEW JUICE GRAPE CONTAINER**

The California Grape and Tree Fruit League petitioned CDFA to amend regulations to allow recyclable plastic containers for juice grapes. The amended

regulation was approved by the Office of Administrative Law, and will become effective December 1, 2007.

B. LETTUCE EXEMPTIONS

Salinas valley has begun to grow small heads of lettuce, currently referred to as “baby” lettuce heads. The largest of the baby heads is twelve inches in diameter, compared to the smallest regular head of lettuce at nineteen inches in diameter. This presents standard container and pack requirement issues.

The industry has used experimental pack permits for the maximum allowable time of three years. Regulation is now necessary to add another standard container size, or to write an exemption. Western Growers Association will submit a petition to CDFA for a regulatory exemption of pack requirement for head lettuce under a specified size.

C. CITRUS ASSESSMENT/FREEZE LANGUAGE

A proposed regulation was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law to be noticed on November 16, 2007. The regulation would provide the Secretary authority to set citrus assessments based on citrus program needs, not to exceed the maximum allowable by statute. The maximum is 11 mills (\$0.011) per carton for Navel oranges, 5 mills (\$0.005) per carton for lemons, and 6 mills (\$0.006) per carton for Valencia oranges and mandarin citrus.

**ITEM 6: STATE AND COUNTY ENFORCEMENT RESULTS**

Mr. Patton reported training classes have been held in fifteen different counties for wholesale and various commodity inspections for standardization. CDFA inspectors have been helping with border and port inspections.

Mr. Jerry Prieto, Jr. provided handouts reporting the preliminary county inspection results for 2006/07. County reports broke down the totals by commodities inspected, containers inspected, results, inspection hours, and inspection costs. Some of the information reported was:

- Fresno – Inspected 17,846 lots of watermelons, honeydew, grapes, and cherries
- Kern – Inspected 1, 265 lots of various commodities
- San Mateo – Inspected 82,100 lots
- Yolo – Inspected 1,320,454 cartons of honeydews and cantaloupes
- San Bernardino – Inspected 202,404 containers of various commodities
- Monterey – Inspected approximately 1,000 containers of leaf lettuce.

**ITEM 7: BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

A. REVENUE AND FUND BALANCE

Mr. Patton explained CDFA is currently implementing a new accounting system. Actual revenue, expenditures, and fund balances will not be available until the system upgrade is complete. However, revenue for 2006/07 is estimated at \$1,600,000 and revenue for 2007/08 at \$1,800,000.

**ITEM 8: BRANCH/PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE**

Mr. Rick Jensen reported a replacement search is in process to fill Mr. Kevin Masuhara's position. Mr. Masuhara was promoted to County Liaison for CDFA. Mr. Andrew Valero was welcomed to the Standardization and Citrus Program. Mr. Valero replaced Ms. Stacey Hughes who transferred to the Egg Program.

**ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.

**ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2008.

**ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Steve Patton, Supervisor  
Standardization Program  
Inspection and Compliance Branch