



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

September 14, 2015

TO: CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COPAC)  
INTERESTED PARTIES

A meeting of the California Organic Products Advisory Committee has been scheduled.  
Enclosed is the agenda.

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive  
Conference Room 267  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
(916) 900-5030

Notification of committee meetings and their agendas can be found via the Internet by accessing  
the following website address: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/meetings.html>.

For Committee members requiring airline ticket reservations, or assistance with your travel  
arrangements, please contact Gina Tenorio in the Sacramento Headquarters' Office at the number  
listed below.

Please find the enclosed agenda. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please  
contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

for Danny Lee  
Supervising Special Investigator  
State Organic Program

Enclosures

cc: Gary Leslie, County/State Liaison

*All meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need reasonable  
accommodation as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or if you have questions  
regarding the public meeting, please contact Laurel Rudolph at (916) 900-5322. Requests for  
reasonable accommodation should be made no later than three (3) days before the meeting.*





CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)  
California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC) Meeting  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive  
Conference Room 267  
Sacramento, CA 95833**

1. Roll Call/Introductions
2. Presentation of Resolutions
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - May 6, 2015- Attachment A
  - August 17, 2015 – Attachment B
4. Elections
5. California Department of Public Health Update – Patrick Kennelly
6. State Organic Program (SOP) Reports
  - i. Vacancies and Terms
  - ii. Revenue from Registration – Attachment C
  - iii. New Registrations – Attachment D
  - iv. Complaint Report- Attachment E
  - v. Appeals – Attachment F
  - vi. Residue Analysis – Attachment G
  - vii. 2014/15 Fund Condition – Attachment H
  - viii. 2015/16 Proposed Budget- Attachment I
7. Transitional Organic Certification
8. Report on California Organic Industry
9. New Items – Discussion Only
10. Public Comments
11. Next Meeting/Agenda Items
12. Adjournment



<b>ORGANIC PROGRAM 2015-2016 PROPOSED BUDGET</b>					
	2013-14	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15	2015-16
	Approved Expenditures	Actual Expenditures	Approved Expenditures	Actual Expenditures as of June 30, 2015	Proposed Expenditures
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>					
Salaries	354,651	367,444	410,915	346,276	437,107
Benefits	121,847	157,305	171,404	152,532	213,125
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>476,498</b>	<b>524,749</b>	<b>582,319</b>	<b>498,809</b>	<b>650,232</b>
<b>OPERATING EXP &amp; EQUIP</b>					
General Expenses	8,500	2,981	5,000	6,803	5,000
Printing	2,500	18	-	-	1,000
Communications	500	620	1,250	1,712	750
Postage	8,000	8,337	7,500	7,442	7,900
Travel: In-State & Out-Of-State	35,000	14,416	35,000	15,684	35,000
Training	2,000	165	1,000	1,524	1,000
Facilities Operation (GWO Rent)	22,000	18,600	24,500	55,879	56,055
Cons/Prof Serv-Interdept	-	390	550	463	450
Information Technology (Supplies)	-	2,942	3,500	5,166	3,250
Other items of Expense (County Contracts)	400,830	193,362	380,000	71,659	380,000
Miscellaneous Expenses (Ag Supplies, etc)	-	6	1,400	1,745	-
Database Charges	-	52,242	50,000	20,263	50,000
Credit Card Service Charges	-	12,054	10,000	11,230	15,000
Chem Lab	60,000	120,000	180,000	110,000	180,000
Attorney General Fees	200,000	40,925	75,000	270	50,000
<b>TOTAL OP EXP &amp; EQUIP</b>	<b>739,330</b>	<b>467,058</b>	<b>774,700</b>	<b>309,840</b>	<b>785,405</b>
<b>Departmental Services</b>					
Direct Charges	85,000	-	-	-	-
Indirect CHG - Branch	75,000	90,135	165,776	171,244	126,000
Indirect Cost - Exec/Admin	-	70,727	79,000	76,162	88,432
Indirect Dept Cost - IT	10,000	45,474	50,000	48,808	56,000
Indirect Costs - Div	40,000	25,660	35,000	33,880	38,364
Central Admin Services	-	1,727	1,800	1,505	1,596
Pro Rata	40,000	32,867	33,000	35,682	36,000
Indirect CHG Recovery	-	-	-	(13,943)	(4,928)
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>266,589</b>	<b>364,576</b>	<b>353,336</b>	<b>341,463</b>
<b>Budget Adjustment Unallocated</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COST</b>	<b>1,465,828</b>	<b>1,258,396</b>	<b>1,721,595</b>	<b>1,161,985</b>	<b>1,777,100</b>
Gas Tax (Sect 224)	(16,000)	(14,786)	(12,500)	(14,520)	(14,520)
Fed Fund Budget Act					
Direct Charge Recovery (from cost share)			(64,372)		(70,013)
Year-End Closing Exp/Credit					
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET</b>	<b>1,449,828</b>	<b>1,243,610</b>	<b>1,644,723</b>	<b>1,147,465</b>	<b>1,692,567</b>
<b>ACTUAL REVENUE</b>		<b>1,363,219</b>	<b>1,320,000*</b>	<b>1,415,014</b>	<b>1,375,000*</b>

\*Projected Revenue

**ORGANIC PROGRAM**  
**2014-15 FUND CONDITION**

As of June 30, 2015

	Actual	
	2013-14	2014-15
BEGINNING BALANCE	2,896,830	2,973,326
<b>REVENUE:</b>		
CY REVENUE	1,375,990	1,413,863
PY REVENUE	-12,771	1,152
TOTAL REVENUE	1,363,219	1,415,014
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
BUDGET YEAR EXPENDITURES	1,104,038	1,148,894
PY EXPENDITURES	183,464	139,774
PPY EXPENDITURES	-780	-5,314
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,286,723	1,283,353
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$2,973,326	\$3,104,987

Sampling Fiscal Year 2015/2016																
DATE	Sample Form Number	WHO SAMPLED	COUNTY WHERE SAMPLED	PRODUCER	HANDLER	RETAIL	CFM	Whole sale	Cha in	OTHE R	COMMODITY	SUBSTANCE DETECTED/ALLOWABLE (Y/N)	AMOUNT DETECTED	EPA TOLERANCE	ABOVE 5% of EPA TOLERANCE & IN VIOLATION	COMMENTS
7/2/2015	R15O00153	San Diego	San Diego					x			Bell Pepper	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/5/2015	R15O00154	San Diego	San Diego				x				Juice-Green	Mandipropamid	0.013	Can't Establish	N/A	Collected as part of investigation
7/5/2015	R15O00155	San Diego	San Diego				x				Juice-Red	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	Collected as part of investigation
7/12/2015	R15O00156	San Francisco	San Francisco				x				Avocado	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/17/2015	R15O00158	San Diego	San Diego	x							Lemons	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/14/2015	R15O00159	Sonoma	Sonoma				x				Honey Blaze	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/21/2015	R15O00160	San Diego	San Diego	x							Tomato	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/21/2015	R15O00161	Fresno	Fresno	x							Mint	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/27/2015	R15O00162	Fresno	Fresno	x							Cilantro	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/27/2015	R15O00163	Colusa	Colusa			x					Squash	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/25/2015	R15O00164	Sonoma	Sonoma				x				Lettuce	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/24/2015	R15O00165	San Diego	San Diego	x							Grapefruit	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/24/2015	R15O00166	San Diego	San Diego	x							Avocado	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/30/2015	R15O00167	San Diego	San Diego	x							Squash	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/31/2015	R15O00168	San Diego	San Diego					x			Bananas	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7/31/2015	R15O00169	San Diego	San Diego	x							Apples	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/4/2015	R15O00170	San Diego	San Diego	x							Kale	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/5/2015	R15O00171	Alameda	Alameda	x							Cucumber	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/5/2015	R15O00172	Alameda	Alameda	x							Squash	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/9/2015	R15O00173	Sonoma	Sonoma				x				Dates	Propamocarb	.074 ppm	NTE	Yes	No tolerance established. NNC issued. Investigation initiated and referred to operation's certifier.
8/9/2015	R15O00174	Sonoma	Sonoma				x				Peaches	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/8/2015	R15O00175	Napa	Napa				x				Eggplant	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/8/2015	R15O00176	Napa	Napa				x				strawberries	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/12/2015	R15O00177	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	x							strawberries	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
6/3/2015	R15O00178	San Diego	San Diego	x							Soil	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/17/2015	R15O00179	San Diego	San Diego	x							Avocado	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8/24/2015	R15O00180	Sutter	Sutter	x							Melon	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	

**California Department of Food and Agriculture  
State Organic Program**

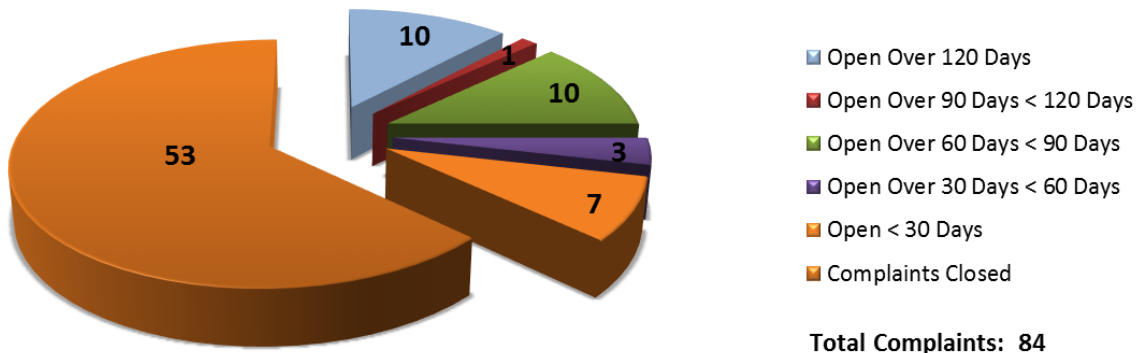
**APPEALS STATUS REPORT  
Fiscal Year Report  
2014/2015**

**As of: June 30, 2015**

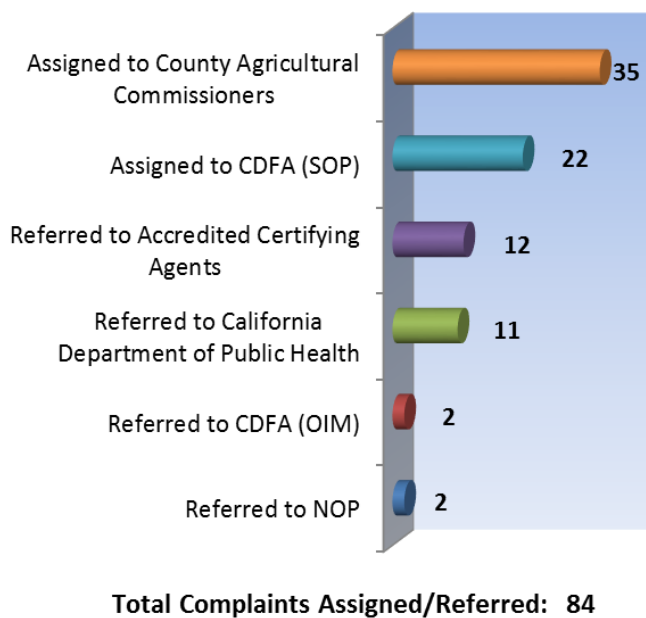
<b>Report Categories</b>	<b>Number</b>
Total appeals logged	0
Active appeals being reviewed by CDFA	0
Active appeals referred to DOJ	0
Total active appeals	0
Appeals granted	0
Appeals resolved	0
Active appeals over 120 days	0

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
 California State Organic Program  
 Complaint Activity Report

**Complaint Activity 9/11/2014 to 9/11/2015**



**Complaint Assignment/Referral Distribution 9/11/2014 to 9/11/2015**



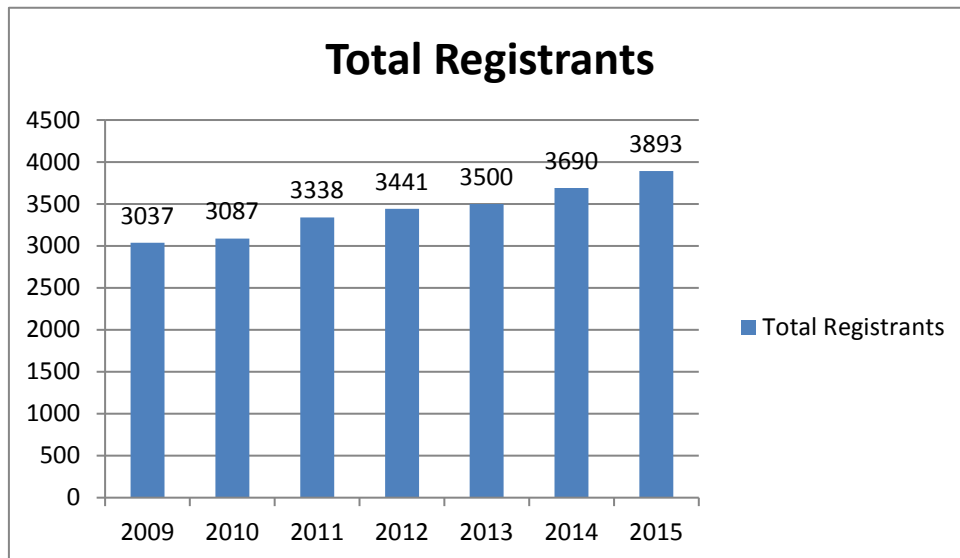
**General complaint categories from most complaints to least:**

1. Not registered or certified. Product organic status in question.
2. Misbranding/mislabeled containers.
3. Failure to properly identify and/or segregate organic products from non-organic products.
4. Pesticides; excessive or prohibited substances detected.

CDFA State Organic Program Calendar Year 2015	
Month	Total Number of New Registrations
Jan-15	40
Feb-15	41
Mar-15	66
Apr-15	49
May-15	36
Jun-15	41
Jul-15	48
Aug-15	16
Sep-15	
Oct-15	
Nov-15	
Dec-15	
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>

Operation Types	Producer	Handler	Processor	Retailer
Jan-15	35	6	1	
Feb-15	35	9	1	
Mar-15	57	10	1	2
Apr-15	41	9	2	
May-15	30	6		1
Jun-15	37	6		
Jul-15	38	11		
Aug-15	16	2		
Sep-15				
Oct-15				
Nov-15				
Dec-15				
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

**NOTE:** The number of operation types may not match the number of new operations, since operations may fall under more than one type.





### CDFA Organic Program Revenue from Registrations by Month and Year

Fiscal Year	July	August	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total	Projected
2015/16	135,105	116,501												
2014/15	118,537	87,910	68,703	107,510	70,599	123,838	142,775	177,510	148,868	128,007	114,078	124,533	1,412,867	1,375,000
2013/14	116,227	113,259	76,144	94,975	86,258	99,268	158,648	149,191	143,174	126,670	121,451	135,606	1,350,378	1,350,000
2012/13	101,726	100,237	75,529	91,100	78,629	92,682	157,620	140,554	140,252	111,714	96,450	89,064	1,275,556	1,200,000
2011/12	121,663	108,102	75,903	69,493	73,721	87,982	145,999	127,058	91,541	134,586	86,682	98,183	1,220,914	
2010/11	70,555	82,212	104,311	62,902	66,948	99,831	136,658	91,803	119,711	93,580	102,369	92,386	1,123,266	
2009/10	72,789	79,513	67,856	63,285	55,128	96,998	120,063	93,642	74,998	90,254	55,807	83,036	953,368	
2008/09	72,876	73,911	63,563	64,835	71,398	102,695	127,727	94,913	78,774	78,316	83,492	79,279	991,777	
2007/08	51,985	65,914	61,989	54,560	59,894	91,955	121,776	89,574	71,088	92,462	72,107	83,241	916,544	
2006/07	46,461	57,168	57,897	47,474	61,087	59,966	103,670	86,253	81,104	76,115	75,212	61,989	814,397	
2005/06	32,852	39,343	42,662	37,768	47,815	71,678	93,852	72,458	63,557	58,160	43,641	50,775	654,558	
2004/05	34,576	35,788	28,366	43,254	48,329	77,550	77,306	65,274	54,583	56,563	36,227	47,334	605,150	
2003/04	33,043	42,659	36,098	34,441	42,785	64,011	57,045	51,563	47,807	46,945	41,934	41,569	539,900	
2002/03	36,765	29,122	35,448	31,206	30,289	49,412	71,462	62,472	31,798	36,968	34,566	35,508	485,016	
2001/02	30,143	28,672	19,912	24,087	37,670	44,729	76,118	40,109	36,732	29,573	41,208	24,760	433,714	
2000/01	27,060	29,889	28,742	21,563	43,640	49,804	63,351	44,783	45,720	26,429	27,672	38,250	446,905	
1999/00	22,526	23,869	16,693	20,547	34,509	59,557	50,269	30,234	41,024	29,894	45,974	25,110	400,205	
1998/99	16,525	18,709	14,539	14,809	22,533	35,884	76,993	33,772	26,290	23,267	23,546	32,196	339,064	
1997/98	13,894	16,251	17,843	16,827	15,180	39,324	65,617	30,022	24,268	19,793	11,592	28,919	299,530	
1996/97	14,656	11,809	7,628	11,390	13,714	37,654	52,142	22,680	20,561	13,555	11,209	21,007	238,003	
1995/96	7,001	15,117	8,568	9,152	17,263	33,826	59,630	29,776	17,357	11,750	8,413	6,412	224,265	
1994/95	13,286	9,643	6,882	7,608	18,913	45,430	49,026	20,402	14,903	7,616	10,067	10,891	214,667	
1993/94	9,834	9,613	3,979	6,758	12,703	33,361	42,882	22,364	15,471	5,548	9,931	11,577	184,021	
1992/93	3,174	3,863	2,897	2,859	2,053	14,533	54,253	25,498	11,401	6,775	4,136	12,298	143,739	
1991/92				938	6,438	11,338	47,478	89,611	23,702	6,300	2,055	5,592	193,451	





**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COPAC)**

**August 17, 2015**

**Teleconference**

**Meeting Minutes**

**2800 Gateway Oaks, Sacramento, CA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Melody Meyer  
Bridget Montesanti  
Sean Swezey  
Thomas Azwell  
David Will  
Mindee Jeffery  
Ione Conlan  
Patrick Baur

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Karen Klonsky  
Blake Alexandre  
Garff Hathcock  
Steve DeMuri  
Thomas Chapman  
Steve Sherman  
Sandra Schmaier  
Patrick Kennelly  
Stacy Carlsen

**CDFA**

Steve Patton  
Marcee Yount  
Danny Lee  
Paul Collins  
Scott Renteria  
Laurel Rudolph  
Jenny Lester-  
Moffitt

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL**

The Committee was called to order at 1:10 pm by Ms. Melody Meyer, Vice Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and self introductions were made.

**ITEM 2: GMO TESTING PILOT PROJECT**

Ms. Meyer gave a brief summary and update of the pilot program and what the GMO subcommittee has been discussing.

Ms. Meyer asked the committee if anyone had any comments on the pilot program, or the Description of Tasks document that will be sent to Secretary Ross for review.

A question was raised as to whether there was a possibility to add to the list of commodities to be tested. Ms. Meyer explained that the GMO subcommittee had extensively discussed and determined which commodities to be tested based on their high risk of GMO contamination. It was decided that there will be no new additions to the list at this time.

Committee members asked the SOP (State organic Program) to confirm the European Union GMO threshold level, which is the threshold level Proposed for enforcement activities. Mr. Lee confirmed that the threshold level was 0.9% and not 0.09%.

Mr. Sean Swezey asked if the report will be made available to the committee before it is available to the public. Mr. Lee assured the committee that they will see the report before it is made public.

Ms. Meyer asked if anyone had any more comments or questions. She then asked for a motion to recommend the approved GMO Testing Pilot Project to Secretary Ross.

**MOTION:** Ione Conlan moved to send the recommendation for the GMO Pilot Project to Secretary Ross. Bridget Montesanti seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**ITEM 3: NOP POLICY MEMO 11-13: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

There was no discussion or questions regarding the National Organic Program policy memo.

**ITEM 4: NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business

**ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

**ITEM 6: NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held September 23, 2015 in Sacramento, CA.

**ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Ms. Melody Meyer adjourn the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Danny Lee, Supervising Special Investigator  
State Organic Program



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COPAC)**

**May 6, 2015**

**Meeting Minutes**

**2800 Gateway Oaks, Sacramento, CA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Garff Hathcock  
Melody Meyer  
Steven Sherman  
Sandra Schmaier  
Bridget Montesanti  
Sean Swezey  
Patrick Kennelly  
Thomas Chapman  
Blake Alexandre  
Steve DeMuri  
Thomas Azwell  
David Will  
Mindee Jeffery  
Stacy Carlsen

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Patrick Baur  
Ione Conlan  
Karen Klonsky

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Jenny Lester Moffitt- CDFA  
Jane Sooby- CCOF  
John Ashby- Natural Products  
Chad Sokol- COSTCO

**CDFA**

Steve Patton  
Danny Lee  
David Carlson  
Paul Collins  
Scott Renteria  
Laurel Rudolph

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL**

The Committee was called to order at 10:05 am by Mr. Steven Sherman, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and self introductions were made.

**ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Mr. Steve Sherman moved to approve the January 22, 2015, Meeting Minutes with the discussed changes. Ms. Melody Meyer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with no abstentions.

**ITEM 4: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

Mr. Patrick Kennelly provided a California Department of Public Health (CDPH) update. He reported that 2,500 registrants are currently registered with CDPH. There were eight complaints in the first half of 2015; three of those complaints have been completed.

The question was asked of what happens to the inventory or products that are issued a non compliance. Mr. Kennelly responded that if a product is greatly misleading then it

will get removed from the shelves, but no press would be called and no announcement would be made to the public. Recalls will only happen if there is a serious risk to public safety.

Mr. Kennelly also discussed the upcoming website that will allow the public to make complaints online along with the hotline.

## **ITEM 5: STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM REPORTS**

### I. Vacancy and Terms

Ms. Laurel Rudolph provided the vacancy report. Vacancies include: three producers; six producer alternates; one wholesale alternate; one processor; two processor alternates; one retail representative; one environmental representative; one environmental representative alternate; two technical representative; two technical representative alternates; one consumer representative; two consumer representative alternates.

Members whose terms will be expiring October 31, 2015, and are not eligible for reappointment are: Mr. Blake Alexandre; Ms. Ione Conlan; Mr. Steve DeMuri; Mr. Thomas Azwell; Mr. Sean Swezey; Ms. Karen Klonsky; and Ms. Sandra Schmaier.

The Committee discussed the term limits of incoming members and staggering those terms. The committee asked to be informed of current applicants for the upcoming vacant positions and requested a list of all applicants be made available for review.

### II. Revenue from Registration

Mr. Scott Renteria provided an overview of the State Organic Program (SOP) revenue from registrations. As of March 31, 2015 the total projected revenue for the 2014/15 Fiscal Year (FY), is over \$1.3 million.

### III. New Registrations

Mr. Renteria provided an overview of new registrant demographics. The total number of new registrations for 2014 was 499. The vast majority of the new registrants are producers, followed by handlers, processors, and then retailers. As of March 31, 2015 the SOP has a total of 3,690 registrants.

The committee asked that in the next new registrations report there be a breakdown of new registrations by commodity as well.

### IV. Complaints

Mr. Renteria provided an overview of the complaint activity for the months of July 2014 to April 20, 2015. At that time, the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) had 5 complaints that had been open for over 120 days, 2 that had been open for 90-120 days, 5 that had been open 60-90 days, 4 that had been open for 30-60 days, 6 that have been open for less than 30 days, and 55 complaints closed. Of the complaints that came into the CDFA: 27 of those were assigned to a County Agricultural Commissioner;

19 were assigned to the SOP; 15 were referred to the California Department of Public Health; 13 were referred to Accredited Certifying Agents; 2 were referred to the Organic Input Material Program; and 1 was referred to the National Organic Program.

#### V. Appeals

Mr. Danny Lee provided the SOP Appeals Status Report. As of April 1, 2015, the SOP has logged one appeal that was granted to the appellant.

#### VI. Residue Analysis

Mr. Renteria provided the Residue Analysis report for the 2014/15 FY. Mr. Renteria explained that the report was not much different than the report given at the January 2015 meeting. He reported that 40 to 50 percent of the SOP's sampling and inspections are done in the months of May and June.

CDFA received 240 samples from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) in addition to CDFA's own samples. Samples from the DPR are treated and followed up with like any other complaint that comes into CDFA.

#### VII. State Organic Program Fund Condition

Mr. Lee provided the SOP Fund Condition. As of March 31, 2015 the beginning balance for the 2014/15 FY was over \$2.9 Million. Total revenue was over \$1 million and total expenditures were \$ 934,027. The total resources as of March 31, 2015 are over \$3 million.

#### VIII. Fiscal Year 2015/ 2016 Budget

Mr. Lee provided the 2015/16 FY budget. The projected expenditures for Personal Services for the 2014/15 FY are \$595,172 and the proposed expenditures for Personal Services for the 2015/16 FY are \$650,232. The projected expenditures for the 2014/15 FY for Operating Expenses & Equipment are \$614,310 and the proposed expenditures for the 2015/16 FY are \$785,405. The total program costs for the 2014/15 FY projected expenditures are \$1,589,678 and \$1,777,100 for the 2015/16 FY proposed expenditures. The total program budget for the 2015/16 FY is \$ 1,692,567, with the total revenue being \$1,375,000.

The Committee discussed increasing surveillance by adding 100 more samples and adding \$60,000 to the surveillance budget.

**MOTION:** Mr. Sean Swezey moved to add 100 more samples and \$60,000 to the SOP surveillance budget, bringing the total testing samples to 400. Ms. Melody Meyer seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The final vote to pass the budget was tabled to discuss Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) testing.

#### IX. Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Testing

Mr. Lee introduced the GMO testing pilot program. The SOP will be budgeting \$16,500 for the pilot program. The funds will be used for sampling, analysis, and shipping of samples. Sixty samples will be taken from producers; ten of those samples will be quantitative and fifty will be qualitative. These samples will be sent to a private lab to be tested and the results will be shared and followed up by CDFA.

Questions about the GMO pilot program were: What commodities were being considered for testing? Are the products being tested only grown in California or out of State? And what happens to the data from the testing? Mr. Lee explained that the products tested would only be ones grown in California. The products at risk of GMOs include feed, corn, wheat, and alfalfa. Mr. Lee said that once they analyze the samples, they will share the results with the committee.

After a discussion with the Committee about the type of samples being tested and the program budget, it was requested that all of the 60 samples will be quantitative, meaning that the tests will not only show if the sample has a presence of GMO's but also percentages. They also requested to increase the original budget amount of \$16,500 to \$30,000, so that there would be enough to allow all samples to be quantitatively tested.

**MOTION:** Ms. Melody Meyer moved to increase the original funding of \$16,500 to \$30,000 to allow all GMO samples to be quantitative tested. Mr. Thomas Azwell seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The budget discussion was revisited and the committee agreed to add the two additional changes to the budget.

**MOTION:** Ms. Melody Meyer moved to add the agreed upon changes to the 2015/16 FY budget. The additional \$60,000 to the Chemistry Lab line item for additional samples, and the addition of a line item of \$30,000 for the GMO pilot program. Mr. Steve DeMuri seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Ms. Melody Meyer asked if any members wanted to put together a subcommittee to further talk about the GMO pilot program. The Committee agreed and four members volunteered for the committee. Those members are: Melody Meyer; Thomas Azwell; David Will; and Bridget Montesanti. They plan to meet at the beginning of June.

#### X. State Organic Program Educational Fact Sheet

Mr. Lee discussed the SOP Educational Fact Sheet. This marketing sheet highlights California's State Organic Program, the only state with its own organic program. The Fact Sheet is located on the CDFA website.



## **ITEM 6: REVIEW OF COMMITTEE RULES AND PROCEDURES**

### I. 1.5 Election of Officers; changing term limits

Mr. Lee discussed the changing of the term limits for the committee members. Current members have a three year term limit. After some discussion regarding extending the terms, it was decided to wait until the new members were appointed to take any action.

### II. 2.1 Regular Meetings: Reducing number of meetings

Mr. Lee discussed the regular meetings. He recommended to the committee that the number of meetings be reduced from three meetings a year to two. After some discussion the Committee decided to continue to meet three times a year.

**MOTION:** Mr. Steven Sherman moved to change the Committee Procedure 2.1, to read that there will be three meetings a year instead of the four that is currently outlined in the committee procedures. Mr. Blake Alexandre seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

### III. 2.5 Quorum Numbers: Reducing quorum numbers

Mr. Lee discussed the reduction of the Quorum numbers. After some discussion the Committee decided to change the quorum from two thirds of the committee members to a majority, meaning a quorum would consist of 50% of the seated members.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thomas Chapman moved to change the Committee Procedure 2.5 to read that a quorum would consist of 50% of the seated members. Garff Hathcock seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

## **ITEM 7: ORGANIC RESEARCH AND PROMOTION ORDER UPDATE**

Ms. Meyer discussed the Organic Research and Promotion Order. The new Farm Bill contains a provision for the Organic Check-off program. The Check-off program would generate funds for the organic industry to implement, develop, and manage programs needed to grow market share, in areas such as: promotion; education; research; and the transition of farmers to grow organic production. The application for this program is on its way to be submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for review. Once the application goes through the USDA and the public comment period, it will go to referendum. Once in referendum, every organic certified entity can vote on it.

## **ITEM 8: NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARD BOARD (NOSB) UPDATE**

Mr. Thomas Chapman gave an update on the NOSB meeting. He reviewed what substances were added or removed from the USDA's National List.

**ITEM 9: NEW ITEMS**

Mr. Steve Patton recommended to the Committee that they revise Section 6.2 of the current committee procedures regarding the review of applications for member seats. The change would allow the committee members to review the applications independently and make recommendations on an individual basis, instead of giving authority to review applications and make recommendations from the Committee as a whole.

**MOTION:** Mr. Steve Sherman moved to change Section 6.2 in the Committee procedures to read that the committee members may review current member applications and may make recommendations on an individual basis. Mr. Blake Alexandre seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

**ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be held September 23, 2015 in Sacramento, CA.

**ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Steve Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:46; Mr. Garff Hathcock seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Danny Lee, Supervising Special Investigator  
State Organic Program