

What is COPAC?

The California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC)

advises the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Secretary on issues related to organic standards and enforcement, and on support for organic agriculture in California through education, outreach, technical assistance, and other organic industry activities. Appointed by the Secretary, committee members represent organic stakeholders, including farmers, processors, retailers, consumers, and accredited certifying agencies.

The advisory committee is comprised of 15 members, with an alternate for each member.

- Six members and their alternates must be producers, at least one of whom must be a producer of meat, fowl, fish, dairy products, or eggs.
- Two members and their alternates must be processors.
- One member and his or her alternate must be wholesale distributors.
- One member and his or her alternate must be representatives of an accredited certifying agency (ACA) operating in the state.
- One member and his or her alternate must be consumer representatives.
- One member and his or her alternate must be environmental representatives.
- Two members and their alternates must be technical representatives with scientific credentials related to agricultural chemicals, toxicology, or food science.
- One member and his or her alternate must be retail representatives.

COPAC provides the opportunity for organic leaders to participate in policy and programs for organic producers.



Steps to Apply for Membership

on the California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC)

- 1** Complete a Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire (PMAQ)* indicating the desired member position you are seeking.
- 2** Obtain a letter of recommendation from an associate in the Organic Industry.
- 3** Send both documents to CDFA, through either of the following methods.

By Mail

Attn: State Organic Program
CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture
2800 Gateway Oaks Dr. Suite 100, Sacramento CA 95833

Electronically

Attach files to an email and send to CDFA_Organic@cdfa.ca.gov

- 4** Please allow adequate time for processing and review. You will be notified when a final decision is reached. Thank you. CDFA State Organic Program Appointments for advisory committee positions will normally be for three years from the date of appointment. A member may serve for two consecutive terms. After one year of absence from the committee a former member may reapply for other vacant seats and may be appointed. Some appointments may be made for two years to allow staggering of terms as needed.

*Available online at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&c/organic_publications.html#COPAC

