



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STDZ)
October 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Derek Vaughn
Louis Pandol

MEMBERS ABSENT

Garrett Patricio
Ruben Arroyo

INTERESTED PARTIES

Shayla Newfeld, Monterey Co.
Graham Hunting, Monterey Co.
Don McCoon, San Joaquin Co.
Manual Villicana, Kern Co.
Steve Schweizer, Kings Co.
Richard Homer, Stanislaus Co.
Scott Cornett, Tulare Co.

CDFA

Steve Patton
Stacey Hughes
Karri Batchelor
Andrea Todd
Sarah Cardoni
Laurel Rudolph

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by Mr. Louis Pandol, Vice Chairperson. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS UPDATE

Ms. Laurel Rudolph provided an overview of Committee vacancies. Member vacancies include: two fresh fruit members representing oranges, other fresh fruit, or table grapes; one other fresh fruit member representing any fresh fruit commodity subject to standardization assessments; four fresh vegetable members representing broccoli, lettuce, or tomatoes; and two other fresh vegetable members who represent any fresh vegetable commodity subject to standardization assessments; and one other commodity member representing any commodity subject to standardization. Members whose terms end August 31, 2015, and are eligible for reappointment to the Committee are Mr. Derek Vaughn and Mr. Louis Pandol.

ITEM 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Steve Patton opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

MOTION: Mr. Derek Vaughn motioned to keep Mr. Garrett Patricio to serve as Chairman and Mr. Louis Pandol to stay as Vice-Chair. Mr. Louis Pandol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Derek Vaughn moved to approve the March 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Louis Pandol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: STATE REPORTS/UPDATES

a. Fund Condition

Ms. Stacey Hughes provided an overview of the program's fund condition. The beginning balance on July 31, 2014, was \$3,503,625. Total revenue received for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/14 was \$1,811,747. Total expenditures were \$1,437,527, which was lower than originally projected. Program personnel vacancies and pending county invoices contributed to the reduced expenditures.

b. Program Update

Ms. Hughes provided a program update. New CDFA staff was introduced to the committee. Two state supervisors and one state inspector joined the program. Ms. Hughes reported that the commodity training presentations were completed and is now available on the CDFA website. The online commodities seasonal licensing program is now being used by several counties, and receiving positive feedback. In addition, several commodity trainings were held for county personnel this past year covering the following commodities: lettuce, melons, grapes, cherries and citrus. Hearing advocacy training sessions were also provided at various locations throughout the state for county personnel.

c. Handler Audit Results

Mr. Patton provided a report on the program's handler audit results. He explained that the audits are performed through a contract with the Market Enforcement Program. Each year, five handlers are randomly selected representing various commodities. This year the audits were done on citrus, stone fruits, a large cherry shed, and two vegetable packers. One out of the five audits found no discrepancy in assessment reporting while the other four found minimal assessment amounts were owed.

d. Regulation Updates

Ms. Hughes provided the regulation update. The California Citrus Advisory Committee had recommended that the current citrus program assessments be increased to the maximum levels allowed in statute to help restore the programs reserve. The new citrus assessment rates became effective October 1, 2014.

The citrus industry filed a petition to modify the regulations that pertain to citrus container number 58. The proposed regulations will add an additional pack method for this container when exporting oranges to a foreign country. The notice for rule making was published September 19, 2014. No public hearing has been scheduled at this time.

The cherry industry submitted a petition to modify the language that pertains specifically to varietal labeling, as well as increase current minimum size requirements.

e. Legislative Updates

Mr. Patton provided the legislative update. He discussed Assembly Bill 1597: Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agriculture. Every five years the legislature must pass a bill to ensure that the Standardization program stays active. Western Growers, through the Agriculture Committee, sponsored the bill this year, which was signed by the Governor in September.

ITEM 7: FISCAL YEAR 2013/14 COUNTY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS

County personnel in attendance reported the following:

Mr. Graham Hunting provided the report for Monterey County. Last year they inspected 529 lots and 300,000 containers, with one non-compliance. That was due to the presence and interaction with the industry. They are currently over 50% of the agreement amount and have been on that trend for the last four or five years now. They are planning to strengthen their standardization program, particularly with road-side stands and retail.

Mr. Steve Schweizer provided the report for Kings County. Last year they inspected 316 lots and 168,853 containers, with two non-compliances, and 738 containers rejected. Kings County reported their total program cost was \$26,955. Their cooperative agreement amount was \$24,500.

Mr. Manual Villicana provided the report for Kern County. Last year they inspected 318 lots and 318,831 containers, with 13 non-compliances and 5,024 containers rejected. Non-compliance notices were issued for grapes, watermelons, and cantaloupes due to maturity and improper labeling. They were not able to use the entire cooperative agreement amount due to the allocation of man power because of the citrus freeze and other commitments.

Mr. Scott Cornett provided the report for Tulare County. Last year they inspected 827 lots and 378,189 containers, with eight non-compliances and 8,877 containers rejected. There were not as many grape inspections done this year because most of the man power was allocated to the citrus freeze.

Mr. Don McCoon provided the report for San Joaquin County. Last year they inspected 718 lots and 64,401 containers, with 51 non-compliances and 4690 rejected containers. The majority of the commodities inspected were cherries. Most of the non-compliance's issued for cherries were as a result of failing to meet the size as marked on the containers.

Mr. Richard Homer provided the report for Stanislaus County. Last year they inspected 533 lots and 267,464 containers, with 59 non-compliances and 435 containers rejected.

The majority of the non-compliance issues were with citrus failing to meet quality, labeling and standard containers requirements. Failure to provide proof of ownership also contributed to the number of violations. Stone fruit, watermelon and tomatoes were among other commodities that were inspected. Most issues were able to be remedied on site.

Ms. Hughes provided the reports for the counties that were not in attendance:

Alameda County inspected 37,815 lots and 96,646 containers last year, with nine non-compliances and 242 containers rejected. Most non-compliance notices were issued to smaller wholesale locations for container labeling violations.

Fresno County inspected 12,046 lots and 4,849,836 containers last year, with 45 non-compliances and 11,232 containers rejected. The majority of inspections took place at production facilities while other inspections occurred at retail and wholesale locations including roadside stands. Fresno County reported their total program cost was \$188,390.

Los Angeles (L.A.) County inspected 4,364 lots and 206,955 containers last year, with 390 non-compliance and 38,658 containers rejected. They also had 132 notices of proposed action's (NOPAS) issued. This was the first year L.A. County had a cooperative agreement with the Standardization Program. They reported expending over \$101, 500 on enforcement activities directly related to their agreement which totaled \$40,000. The majority of inspections took place at various wholesale locations and inspections were performed on imported fruit and vegetables as well as domestic produce.

Merced County inspected 139 lots of both honeydew and watermelons last year, six non-compliance notices were issued. They also performed inspections at several roadside stands. Three of the roadside vendors were cited for failing to have proof of ownership.

Placer County did not submit a summary report.

Riverside County inspected 370 locations throughout the southern part of the state. 5,775,110 containers were inspected, with 278 non-compliance's issued and 140,832 containers rejected. Riverside County along with the CDFA performs inspections at the port of Los Angeles every year when the Chilean table grapes come in.

San Bernardino County inspected 8,038 lots and 1,493,490 containers last year, with two non-compliance notices issued and 1,900 containers rejected. They used their entire cooperative agreement amount.

San Diego County had 66 notices of violation and 5 NOPA's. Inspections in the county took place at production, wholesale and retail locations including roadside stands. The majority of non-compliances were issued for improper labeling and no proof of ownership.

San Francisco County inspected 470 lots and 24,165 containers last year, with 21 rejections. The majority of their rejections were for quality and labeling.

San Mateo County inspected 63,508 lots and 1,935,928 containers last year, with 164 non-compliances issued. They also issued 23 NOPA's and used all of their agreement funding.

Sutter County inspected 34 farm stand and mobile vendor locations last year. Four notices of violation were issued for lack of proof of ownership. Sutter County reported their program cost was \$13,547.

Yolo County inspected 658,870 cartons of honeydews and other melons last year, at production, wholesale and retail locations. There were 588 cartons rejected for maturity, four notices of noncompliance and four disposal orders were issued.

Ventura County has yet to send in an activities summary but has reported that they will be using all of their cooperative agreement allotment. Additional county staff has been added to their standards program that has allowed for increased enforcement activities at roadside stands and other venues throughout the county.

ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hughes discussed the past grape season, specifically container labeling issues. Abbreviations of varietal names have been a large issue throughout the state. The use of preprinted grids on containers accounted for most of the grape labeling issues. As a result, Table Grape handlers this past season were allowed to abbreviate seedless as SDLS. The abbreviation of SDLS will only be allowed for the 2014 season. Continued use would require the industry to petition the department to change current table grape labeling regulations.

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be in March. Date, time, and place will to be determined at a later date.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm. by Mr. Pandol.

Respectfully submitted by:



Stacey Hughes, Program Supervisor
Standardization Program