



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
November 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Woods – Chair
Seth Wollenman – Vice
Chair
Al Bates
Michael Stark
David Tomlinson
Tom Mayhew
Keeley Bramer

INTERESTED PARTIES

Steve Schweizer, Kings County
Eddy Greynolds, Kern County
Christopher Greer, Tulare County
John Bixler, Tulare County
Bob Blakely, CCM
Jeff Olsen- NASS
Tom Tucker, Tulare County
Chris Messer – USDA, National
Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS)
Joel Reyes, CCM

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Karrie Batchelor
Stacey Hughes
Thomas Osborn
Jeff Cesca

MEMBERS ABSENT

Brad Bishel
George McEwen

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Scott Woods, Vice Chairman. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Mr. Thomas Osborn reported on committee terms and current vacancies. Currently, there are three producer member vacancies: one of lemons from Ventura County; one of Navel and Valencia, mandarin, and lemons from Riverside and Kern County; one of Navel and Valencia from Fresno County. There is also one handler member vacancy: one of Navel and Valencia from the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Seth Wollenman will term out on September 30, 2018.

ITEM 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Steve Patton asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Tom Mayhew moved to nominate Mr. Scott Woods for Chairman. Mr. Al Bates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

MOTION: Mr. Woods moved to nominate Mr. Seth Wollenman for Vice Chair. Mr. Michael Stark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Scott Woods asked for a motion to approve the March 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Michael Stark moved to approve the March 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. Tom Mayhew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 6: FUNDS CONDITION REPORT

Ms. Karrie Batchelor reviewed the fund condition. As of September 30, 2017, the fund balance was \$3,349,298. The projected revenue for the remaining fiscal year was reported at \$341,781. Total approved expenditures are \$811,881 leaving the fund balance estimated to be \$2,879,198 at the end of the fiscal year.

ITEM 7: CDFA UPDATES

Ms. Stacey Hughes gave a brief history of the Citrus Program and explained how the monies collected are used and allocated for a maturity program, freeze inspection program and crop statistical data. Ms. Hughes went on to detail the manner in which the CDFA contracts with counties to conduct inspections.

Mr. Patton reminded the Committee of the Produce Safety Rule (PSR), which will become effective January 26, 2018 for large farms. Compliance with this rule will not be enforced until 2019. There has been a coordinated effort between the CDFA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide education and outreach to farmers regarding the requirements of the PSR. Mr. Patton went on to describe the one-day Grower Training course that an individual from each farm is required to complete. These training courses are designed to educate growers about requirements of the PSR, and will be offered at low or no-cost at various locations around the state.

Ms. Batchelor informed the Committee that CDFA received a petition from California Citrus Mutual (CCM) for the mandarin containers and numerical sizes currently being used under experimental permits by the industry. The petition requests that the California Code of Regulations (CCR) be revised to allow for these new containers and pack regulations.

ITEM 8: AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

a. CDFA – Budget Update

Mr. Jeff Cesca of the CDFA Division of Marketing Services updated the Committee on the current condition of the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) Survey Program budget. He explained that CDFA works together with NASS to complete both the Navel & Valencia Crop Survey, and the Acreage Survey. In the 2014/15 crop year, NASS asked the Marketing Branch for staff assistance with the crop forecast. During this time the NASS contract amounts were paid but not the states administrative costs which included salaries, overhead and operating expenses. As a result, the Program ended the fiscal year with a negative balance. Mr. Cesca also explained that a negative balance would result in penalties and interest owed to the Department and asked the Committee to authorize an additional transfer in the amount of \$33,518. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to review the Crop Survey funding again at the March 2018 Committee meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Al Bates moved to authorize a transfer of funds from the Citrus Program in the amount of \$33,518 in order to bring the NASS Survey Program's ending balance for the 2016/17 FY to \$0.00. Mr. Seth Wollenman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

b. Mandarin and Cara Cara Objective Measurement Updates

Ms. Batchelor began by reviewing the information discussed at the last advisory committee meeting. She went on to say that a mandarin regression model and Cara Cara shipping data would be needed for NASS to move forward with developing a potential Mandarin and Cara Cara Objective Measurement Report. The Committee also discussed contacting the Citrus Research Board (CRB) to obtain the shipping data for the Cara Caras. Mr. Bob Blakely of California Citrus Mutual (CCM) informed the Committee that CCM had written a proposal to CRB requesting that they modify the assessment reporting form. Mr. Blakely explained that the new assessment forms will contain more data than before, such as distinguishing between organic and conventional produce, growing district, and citrus sub-variety. This additional data will allow for the creation of a database containing information on citrus sub-varieties.

Ms. Chris Messer brought up discussion regarding NASS's samples size for Navel and Valencia surveys as well as the Coefficient Variation. Ms. Messer has indicated that the sample size is the same for Navels and Valencia however the acreage amounts are different. Ms. Messer suggested that NASS reevaluate sample sizes for Navel and Valencia oranges, in order to reduce the Coefficient of Variation (CV) range on Navels, and increase the CV range on Valencia oranges. The Committee members emphasized the importance of having accurate data for Navel oranges in particular.

MOTION: Mr. Al Bates moved to authorize NASS to perform an evaluation of Navel & Valencia sample sizes, in order to increase survey data accuracy. Mr. David Tomlinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

The Committee discussed returning to the issue during the March 2018 Meeting.

ITEM 9: PROGRESS REPORT FROM COUNTIES ON MATURITY INSPECTION PROGRAM

Counties in attendance reported the following:

Kern County reported they have performed 207 maturity tests to date; with 12 scores below 100 on the California Standard Scale. In October, 6.8 percent of tests were below 100. In November, there were 4.4 percent below 100. They have had no rejections so far, and no issues with color.

Kings County performed three maturity tests so far this year, with all testing between 112 and 121 on the California Standard Scale, with no color issues.

Tulare County performed 417 maturity tests; 17.74 percent of those tests were below 100 on the California Standard Scale, with 6 Red Tags issued. A total of 145 bins were sent to juice for not meeting the California Maturity Standard. There have been no color issues. They have also performed 34 maturity tests on mandarins, with 4 testing below 8.5. No Red Tags were issued for mandarins.

Ms. Batchelor gave the reports for those counties not in attendance:

Fresno County started receiving fruit on October 13th. There are currently 13 packing houses receiving fruit. In the past two weeks they performed over 200 maturity tests and 70 percent of the fruit originates from Fresno County; only 4 tested under 100 on the California Standard Scale. They also reported having 5 rejections one was the day prior to the meeting.

Ventura County reported that they began receiving fruit on October 14th. There is currently only 1 packing house receiving fruit. Only 2 tests have been below 100 on the California Standard Scale. There have been 20 total tests, with no rejections.

San Diego County rejected 2 loads the first day receiving fruit. The oranges were from Kern County, and were tested on October 10th. There have been 12 tests total. Color and maturity were not a problem.

Riverside County performed 20 maturity tests so far this year, with no rejections. Ms. Batchelor noted that some regions of San Bernardino County have begun harvesting local fruit which is unseasonably early.

ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee decided to hold a conference call on December 5, 2017 to evaluate the progress of maturity inspection program and determine a suitable time to end continuous testing.

The Committee also set a date for their March meeting. The meeting will be held on March 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, pending room availability.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wollenman adjourned the meeting at 11:37 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karrie Batchelor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "B".

Karrie Batchelor, Agriculture Program Supervisor I
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services