



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)  
March 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes  
4437 South Laspina St., Tulare, CA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Al Bates, Vice-Chair  
Michael Stark  
George McEwen  
David Tomlinson  
Brad Bishel  
Keeley Bramer  
Tom Mayhew  
John S. Gless

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Christopher Greer, Tulare County  
Jonathan Bixler, Tulare County  
Tim Fritch, Ventura County  
Sam Sohal, Fresno County  
Fred Rinder, Fresno County  
Raymond Valles, Kern County  
Gary Keough, USDA, NASS  
Brenda Hill, USDA, NASS  
Joel Reyes, California Citrus Mutual

**CDFA**

Steve Patton  
Marcee Yount  
Stacey Hughes  
Karrie Batchelor  
Thomas Osborn  
Andrea Todd

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Scott Woods, Chair

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS**

The Committee was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Al Bates, acting Chair. Roll was called, self-introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

Al Bates requested a motion to approve the November 15, 2018 meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** George McEwen moved to approve the November 15, 2018 meeting minutes as submitted. Keeley Bramer seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

**ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT**

Thomas Osborn provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. Currently, there are three producer member vacancies: one of navels from the San Joaquin Valley; one of lemons from Ventura County; and one of navels and valencias from Fresno County. Osborn went on to state that reappointments will take place in September of 2019.

### **ITEM 5: COUNTY ACTIVITY AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR FY 2018-19**

Fresno County inspected 827 premises, 1,002 lots, and a total of 1,103,566 containers, with no rejections. Fresno County has performed 1,014 maturity tests, and used 75.10 percent of their budget.

Kern County has inspected 309 premises, 446 lots, with one rejection. Kern County has also inspected 478,075 containers, with 1,200 rejections. Kern County has performed 309 maturity tests, and used 41.10 percent of their budget.

Riverside County has inspected 36 premises, 94 lots, and 117,055 containers, with no rejections. Riverside County has performed 80 maturity tests, and used 93.76 percent of their budget.

Tulare County has inspected 598 premises, 1,213 lots, and 1,087,551 containers, with no rejections. Tulare County has performed 1213 maturity tests, and used 23.09 percent of their budget.

Ventura County has inspected 11 premises, 20 lots, and 22,150 containers, with no rejections. Ventura County has performed 20 maturity tests, and used 35.17 percent of their budget.

As of January, the counties have used 42.64 percent of their total budget.

### **ITEM 6: NASS UPDATE**

Brenda Hill, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), provided an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Proposed NASS Orange Crop Program Budget. The proposed budget includes \$156,000 for a Navel Objective Measurement (OM) Survey, \$70,000 for a Valencia OM Survey, \$73,000 for a Citrus Acreage Survey, and \$51,000 for a Cara Cara OM Survey. Total salary and benefits are \$37,011, operating expenses are \$31,000, with a gas tax credit of \$4,000, bringing total expenditures to \$414,010. Hill stated that data collection for the Navel and Valencia OM Surveys can begin in July of 2019.

### **ITEM 7: NASS FORECAST SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mike Stark, NASS Forecast Subcommittee Chair, noted that the Subcommittee has not met since the last CCAC meeting. The Subcommittee members in attendance stated that there is still interest in moving forward with a NASS Forecast survey for mandarins. It was decided that the Subcommittee would schedule an additional meeting, in order to further explore this topic.

## **ITEM 8: BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

### i. FY 2019/20 Proposed Citrus County Cooperative Agreements

Karrie Batchelor presented the FY 2019/20 Proposed Citrus County Cooperative Agreements. The total funding for FY 2019/20 is \$470,659, which is proposed to be allocated to each county as follows:

- Fresno County: \$118,243
- Kern County: \$97,599
- Riverside: \$15,388
- Tulare: \$222,429
- Ventura: \$17,000

### ii. FY 2019/20 Proposed Citrus Program Budget

Batchelor presented the revised FY 2019/20 Proposed Citrus Budget. The projected beginning fund balance for FY 2019/20 is \$3,019,164, with projected revenue of \$352,049. The projected revenue shown for each commodity is based on continuing an assessment rate of .003 for navels and valencias, and 0.001 for lemons and mandarins. The expected available cash for FY 2019/20 is \$3,371,213. The proposed expenditures are \$924,308, with an ending balance of \$2,457,312.

### iii. FY 2019/20 Projected Revenue

The Committee discussed the possibility of future changes to assessment rates. Batchelor explained that current assessment rate levels have been consistent since the 2017/18 crop year. Those in attendance indicated that they feel comfortable with current assessment rates.

Al Bates requested a motion to approve the FY 2019/20 Proposed Citrus Program Budget as submitted.

**MOTION:** Tom Mayhew moved to approve the FY 2019/20 Proposed Citrus Program Budget as submitted. George McEwen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Al Bates requested a motion to maintain assessment rates at their current levels.

**MOTION:** Brad Bishel moved to maintain assessment rates at the current level of .003 for navels and valencias, and .001 for lemons and mandarins. David Tomlinson seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

### **ITEM 9: FREEZE PROTOCOL REVIEW – CRITICAL TEMPS FOR MANDARINS**

A document pertaining to Citrus Freeze Protocol for oranges, mandarins, and lemons was distributed to all in attendance. Karrie Batchelor explained that this document contains information on freezing temperature danger points for various citrus commodities, as well as procedures for how to mitigate damage to citrus inflicted by freezing temperatures. Batchelor explained that there is also interest in determining if mandarins are less freeze resistant than other citrus varieties. Batchelor asked those in attendance if they are aware of any scientific research pertaining to freeze damage to mandarins. Stacey Hughes explained that the current Citrus Freeze Protocol was developed jointly by CCAC and CDFA, in order to establish a set of standard procedures on how to respond to freezing temperatures.

Al Bates stated that freeze damage to mandarins often takes a significant amount of time to become visible to inspectors, longer than the 72-hour sample hold procedure utilized for other citrus. Several committee members in attendance voiced concern that mandarins are more sensitive to freezing temperatures than other citrus varieties. Hughes encouraged those in attendance to share any information pertaining to critical freeze temperatures for mandarins with CDFA staff, in order to assist in the development of freeze protocols.

### **ITEM 10: PROGRAM UPDATES**

Karrie Batchelor informed those in attendance that experimental permits for one nonstandard pack and one nonstandard container for oranges have been issued by the CDFA Standardization Program. The experimental container permit is on its second renewal, and the experimental pack permit will undergo its first renewal next month. Experimental permits for nonstandard packs and containers may be renewed up to three times.

Steve Patton, Inspection and Compliance Branch Chief, gave an update on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR). Patton explained that the PSR is now in effect, with inspections and enforcement for large farms beginning in April 2019. CDFA employs five PSR inspectors, and is in the process of hiring five additional inspectors. Enforcement will initially focus on priority commodities, such as leafy greens, honeydews, and cantaloupes. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has extended, for covered produce other than sprouts, the dates for compliance with the agricultural water provisions of the PSR. It is estimated that approximately 25,000 California farms will be subject to PSR requirements, with roughly half of these being small farms. Patton encouraged those in attendance to visit the CDFA Produce Safety Program website, for information on PSR compliance requirements and enforcement dates.

Marcee Yount provided an overview of the Citrus Program spending authority. The Citrus Program has a spending authority of approximately \$720,000, which is the maximum amount of money within the program budget which may be spent. In order to

ensure that adequate funding is available in the event of a citrus freeze, language to increase the funding available to the program during a freeze event has been added to the Budget Act. Specifically, this language permits the Director of Finance, following a request by CDFA, to make additional resources within the Citrus Program budget available in the event of a citrus freeze where freezing damage has occurred.

Thomas Osborn provided an overview of Assembly Bill (AB) 931. As written, this bill would require that on and after January 1, 2025, all state advisory committees and boards with five or more members have a minimum of 50% female membership. AB 931 would also require that advisory boards and committees with four or fewer members have at least one female member. Patton noted that the CCAC strives to have a diverse and representative membership, and encouraged women in the citrus industry, who are interested in serving on the CCAC, to contact CDFA for information on how to apply.

Patton presented Keeley Bramer, Handler Member, with a Resolution, in recognition of his eight years of dedicated and exemplary service to the CCAC.

#### **ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

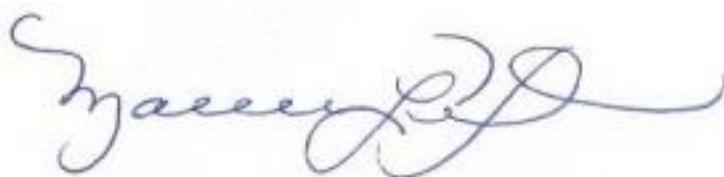
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

A teleconference meeting of the CCAC NASS Forecast Subcommittee will also be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

#### **ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. by Al Bates, acting Chair.

Respectfully submitted by:



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