



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
October 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes
1001 South Mount Vernon Ave, Bakersfield, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gus Gunderson, Chairman
Keeley Bramer, Vice Chair
John Gless
Mark Golden
Al Bates
David Hines

INTERESTED PARTIES

Gavin Iacono, Tulare County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Steve Schweizer, Kings County
Manuel Villicana, Kern County

CDFA

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Seth Wollenman
Scott Woods
Curtis Holmes
Michael Stark

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Mr. Gus Gunderson, Chairman. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the July 22, 2014, Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Ms. Laurel Rudolph reported on committee terms and current vacancies. Currently, there are two handler member vacancies on the Committee. Members whose terms will end on September 30, 2015, are: Mr. David Hines, Mr. John Gless, and Mr. Gus Gunderson.

ITEM 5: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Gus Gunderson asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden nominated Mr. Gus Gunderson to stay on as chair. Mr. John Gless second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden nominated Mr. Keeley Bramer to stay on as Vice-Chair. Mr. John Gless second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: CDFA UPDATES

Mr. Steve Patton provided some department updates and new program staff introductions were made. He updated the committee on the Standardization Program (STDZ) database development and addressed some of the uses of the database; one use includes the ability to pay assessments by use of a credit card. He went on to explain that currently the program also collects assessments on behalf of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP) for Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) but as a result of some of these changes, will no longer be able to do so, starting in January 2015. Both programs, STDZ and CPDPP will be notifying the industry of this change and providing the necessary reporting information in December of this year.

Mr. Patton also mentioned the continued cost increase the Department is incurring to administer the Citrus Program, particularly when there is a freeze. He went on to say he plans to discuss this matter in detail during next year's spring committee meeting.

The Department had a listening session in Sacramento regarding the Food Safety Modernization Act's new regulations. There were three different sessions: Updated Produce Safety Rules, Updated Preventive controls for Human Food, and Updated Preventive Controls for Animal Food.

Mr. Patton discussed new legislation that was signed by the Governor during the 2013/14 session. Some of the bills that were discussed were AB 1871, the direct marketing bill; AB 1990, which defines the term gleaner; AB 2561 which defines or outlines personal agriculture; and AB 2488, alcoholic beverages at certified farmers markets.

ITEM 7: FUNDS CONDITION REPORT

Ms. Stacey Hughes provided the funds condition report. The total resources for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/14 were \$1,739,240 and the total expenditures for FY 2013/14 were \$1,430,868. With the resources available and expenditures, that left a starting amount of \$308,372, as of July 1.

The revenue from June to the end of September was \$155,808; bringing the fund balance to \$464,181 for the start of this harvest season. The revenue for June thru September was higher than the original projection of \$100,000.

Assessments were brought up to the maximum rate allowed in statute beginning October 1st. It is estimated that the new assessment rates will bring the revenue for the Citrus Program up to approximately \$1.3 million annually.

The Pro-rata for FY 2014/15 is \$27,000, and the crop forecast for this year is \$190,000. The approved county agreements for this FY are \$466,807.

There was a brief discussion of having \$1.5 million as the reserve amount goal like in previous years. Mr. Patton mentioned that it may be time to consider a higher reserve amount in light of recent program funding issues.

ITEM 8: REGULATION UPDATES

Ms. Hughes provided the regulatory update. 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.

ITEM 9: PROGRESS REPORT FROM COUNTIES ON MATURITY INSPECTION PROGRAM

Kern County reported their Navel orange harvest started the beginning of October. Orange color was good with soluble solids testing well above the California Standard. All but one of their seven orange packing sheds are operating at this time.

Tulare County reported that they started receiving Navels in their county on October 7th and has over 30 packing houses currently operating. They also reported that maturity tests are running well above the minimum requirement.

Fresno County reported they have performed 143 maturity tests to date; fifteen percent of those tests were below 110 on the California Standard Scale, with no lots testing below 100. Thirty percent of the tests were running between 120-130.

Ventura County reported that they have had no issues with color or soluble solids.

Riverside County reported that maturity testing has been good on the loads they have received to date.

Santa Clara County had not received any loads of oranges at their packing facility at this time.

ITEM 10: REGULATORY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Mark Golden presented the subcommittee's draft of a re-inspection protocol of freeze damaged citrus. The draft states that no more than three inspections will be

permitted for any rejected lots. The inspections and subsequent re-inspections shall occur within 7 days of the first inspection. Any lot that has failed to pass on the third inspection shall be disposed. The disposal shall occur no later than 10 days from the issue of the notice of noncompliance from the third inspection. Discussion continued and it was decided that the protocol should be taken to an industry group to assist with drafting the petition and specific language necessary in order to pursue a regulatory change with the Department.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the recommendation on this re-inspection protocol for freeze damaged fruit, incorporating the 10 days from issue of notice for disposal. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 11: NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION ONLY

Mr. Keeley Bramer wanted to discuss the assessment caps and how to change them. The committee decided that a future meeting would be a better time to have that discussion.

Ms. Hughes mentioned that several of the experimental container and pack permits that the Citrus Industry has been using are currently expired. She urged those who have expired permits to get them renewed as soon as possible if they still plan to use them.

The orange freeze damage center cut and the use of alternative cuts was also discussed. Any change to the current type of cuts used to determine freeze damage in citrus would require research and supporting data.

ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEM

The next meeting will be a teleconference on November 18th at 10:00am. Items to be discussed are; maturity testing, and the subcommittee's re-inspection protocol

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gunderson adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted by:



Stacey Hughes, Agriculture Program Supervisor II
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services