



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STDZ)
March 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Derek Vaughn – Chair
Jeff Simonian – Vice Chair
David Silva
Patrick Tucker
Marko Zaninovich
Ed Williams

INTERESTED PARTIES

Christopher Greer, Tulare County
Eddy Greynolds, Kern County
Tom Tucker, Tulare County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Sam Sohal, Fresno County
Steve Schweizer, Kings County
Joel Reyes, California Citrus
Mutual

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Stacey Hughes
Karrie Batchelor
Thomas Osborn

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Casas

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The committee was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Derek Vaughn, Chair. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Derek Vaughn requested a Motion to approve the October 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

MOTION: Patrick Tucker moved to approve the October 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Marko Zaninovich 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. Current vacancies include: one fresh fruit members from oranges, table grapes, and other citrus fruit; three fresh vegetable members from broccoli, tomatoes, and/or lettuce; two other fresh vegetable members from any fresh vegetable commodity subject to standardization assessments; and one member from any other commodity. Osborn also provided the names of members who will be eligible for reappointment beginning on September 1, 2019.

ITEM 5: FY 2019/20 PROPOSED COUNTY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

Stacey Hughes presented the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/20 Proposed Standardization County Cooperative Agreements Summary. The FY 2019/20 Proposed Cooperative Agreements include a reduction of funding requested by each county for enforcement at retail. The Proposed Cooperative Agreements also reallocate funding from Fresno County to Tulare County, in order to balance table grape enforcement. Enforcement activity will focus on inspections at production and wholesale locations, with inspections at retail locations conducted on a complaint basis.

Hughes went on to provide those in attendance with an overview of Standardization Program Supervisor staff locations and duties. The Standardization Program employs Northern, Central, and Southern District Supervisors. These District Supervisors coordinate and provide support to counties for training, inspection, and enforcement activities.

Hughes invited the counties in attendance to provide a brief overview of their anticipated funding utilization.

Christopher Greer provided an overview for Tulare County. Tulare County anticipates utilizing their additional funding to increase table grape inspections and extend enforcement of maturity standards to include later harvested table grape varieties.

Eddy Greynolds provided an overview for Kern County. Kern County may reduce funding allocations for various commodity inspections, and will coordinate with CDFA Shipping Point Inspection staff to conduct table grape inspections.

Steve Schweizer provided an overview for Kings County. Kings County staff will focus on inspections of cherries and table grapes.

Scotti Walker provided an overview for Fresno County. Fresno County will reduce funding allocations for various commodity inspections.

Ed Williams provided an update for Ventura County. Ventura County will continue to perform pest exclusion and standardization inspections at retail locations.

ITEM 6: PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET

Steve Patton explained as part of a state-wide change, all California State Agencies are now required to utilize the Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal) system for budgeting, accounting, procurement, and cash management. This transition has led to challenges in compiling financial data that is of a comparable timeliness and level of detail to that previously available. In order to ensure that financial data provided to advisory committees is sufficiently detailed and up-to-date, a decision has been made by the CDFA Inspection and Compliance Branch to postpone production of Fund Condition Reports during this transition period. Patton went on to state that CDFA

anticipates having additional financial information available at the Fall 2019 STDZ meeting, once the current FY has concluded.

Stacey Hughes presented the 2019/20 FY Proposed Budget. For the 2019/20 FY projections, personnel services expenses are \$683,966, operating equipment and expenses are \$936,541; departmental expenses are \$630,899; bringing the total proposed program cost for the 2019/20 FY to \$2,251,406. The projected revenue for the 2018/19 FY is \$1,729,831. With a projected Gas Tax credit of \$29,000, the total projected program budget is \$2,222,406.

It was noted by members of the Committee that indirect charges associated with Departmental Services have increased in recent years. Patton explained that these indirect charges, such as Pro Rata and Information Technology, are distributed between all CDFA programs. These indirect charges are allocated based on the size of a program's total budget. Patton also credited some of the increases to the high demand of records requests, and went on to explain how complicated and time consuming this process is in order to comply with the California Public Records Act.

Derek Vaughn requested a motion to approve the 2019/20 FY Proposed Budget.

MOTION: David Silva moved to approve the proposed 2019/20 Fiscal Year Budget as presented. Marko Zaninovich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 7: PROGRAM UPDATES

Stacey Hughes provided those in attendance with an overview of Assembly Bill (AB) 419, which has been introduced to the California State Assembly Committee on Agriculture. This bill would extend the statutory sunset date for the CDFA Standardization Program from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2025. Hughes also stated that Western Growers recently submitted a letter stating their support for this legislation.

Hughes went on to state that the annual Table Grape Labeling and Varietal List letter is scheduled to be distributed to members of the table grape industry, county agricultural commissioners, and interested parties on Friday, March 15th, 2019.

Steve Patton 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. Patton went on to explain that the intent of the FSMA is preventative, with a goal of enforcement agencies educating stakeholders while they regulate. It is estimated that approximately 25,000 California farms will be subject to PSR requirements, with roughly half of these being small farms. CDFA is conducting free of charge On Farm Readiness Review sessions for growers, in order to assist farmers in understanding PSR requirements, and preparing for upcoming inspections.

Patton went on to provide those in attendance with an update on Subpart E of the PSR. Patton explained that 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 in the PSR. The FDA is continuing to gather stakeholder feedback, while examining possible modifications, such as an increase in the number of accepted water testing methodologies, to the requirements of Subpart E. Patton encouraged those in attendance to visit the CDFA Produce Safety Program website, for information on PSR compliance requirements and enforcement dates.

A discussion pertaining to PSR requirements, enforcement prioritization, and timelines ensued.

ITEM 8: ASSESSMENT FEES ON PRODUCE IMPORTED TO CALIFORNIA

Stacey Hughes stated that CDFA does not have a statutory mechanism by which assessment fees can be imposed on produce imported to California. Statute does permit County Agricultural Commissioners, under extraordinary circumstances, to assess imported produce. However, this ability is subject to strict requirements, and is unlikely to be viable for most counties.

Ed Williams stated that current California law allows counties with populations of over six million to impose a \$250 registration fee on wholesalers. Williams estimated that allowing counties to collect this registration fee statewide, rather than limiting it to counties with populations over six million residents, would raise approximately \$400,000 per year in funding for counties to utilize for produce inspection activities. Steve Patton suggested that this topic be explored further at a future California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) meeting, and be included for discussion on the next STDZ meeting agenda.

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Tulare County, at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 p.m. by Derek Vaughn, Chair.

Respectfully submitted by:



Stacey Hughes, Program Supervisor
Standardization Program