



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
November 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes
UC Cooperative Extension – Kern County
1031 South Mount Vernon Ave., Bakersfield, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Woods – Chair
Tom Mayhew
Brad Bishel
Gustavo Carranza
John Gless - Vice Chair
Michael Stark
David Tomlinson

INTERESTED PARTIES

Jonathan Bixler, Tulare County
Daniel Delgado, Riverside County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Sam Sohal, Fresno County
Joel Reyes, California Citrus Mutual
George McEwen
Eddy Greynolds, Kern County
Raymond Valles, Kern County
Steve Schweizer, Kings County
Brenda Hill – NASS

CDFA

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Scott Woods, Chair. Roll was called, self-introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Karrie Batchelor opened the floor to elections for Chair

MOTION: Tom Mayhew nominated Scott Woods for Chair. John Gless seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Nominations for the Vice Chair followed.

MOTION: Tom Mayhew nominated John Gless. Scott Woods seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 4: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Woods requested a Motion to approve the March 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

MOTION: David Tomlinson moved to approve the March 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Tom Mayhew seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Mitchell King presented the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. Currently, there are five producer member vacancies: one of navels from the San Joaquin Valley; one of lemons from Ventura County; one of navels and valencias from Fresno County; one of navels and valencias from Tulare County; and one of mandarins. King went on to state that reappointments will take place in September of 2020.

Chair Woods asked that King email the Vacancy and Terms Report to the Committee members after the meeting.

ITEM 6: FUND CONDITION REPORT

Batchelor provided the Fund Condition Report. As of June 30, 2019, the fund balance was \$3,174,205. The projected revenue for the remaining fiscal year was reported at \$355,782. Total projected expenditures are \$888,670, and a cash adjustment of \$35,638. The fund balance is anticipated to be \$2,605,680 at the end of the 2019/20 fiscal year.

Chair Woods asked what the total expenditures were for the last freeze event. Steve Patton responded that the total expenditures were around \$1.4 million. Brad Bishel asked what the fund condition was for the previous year for comparison. Stacey Hughes explained last year's citrus fund closed around \$3.1 million and that this fund condition is a snapshot of the account.

Hughes also reported the Standardization Advisory Committee met in October and approved an assessment increase of one mil (one tenth of a penny) per container that will become effective July 1, 2020. Current standardization assessments are one mil for mandatory inspection fees and three mils for non-mandatory inspection fees. Hughes explained that navel and valencia handlers pay the lower assessment rate because they also pay assessments into the Citrus Program for maturity inspections.

Patton provided an update on the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) and shared with the Committee that small farms will be subject to PSR inspections beginning in 2020, with very small farms starting in 2021.

ITEM 7: NASS FORECAST SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Michael Stark gave an update of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Forecast Subcommittee. The Subcommittee and NASS met in June to continue discussing a survey for mandarins. The Subcommittee discussed what types of mandarins would be included in the survey and decided only to include the Tango and Murcott varieties. The Subcommittee also determined that the size model data

necessary to conduct the survey would be provided by Al Bates and Stark. The Subcommittee then discussed cost and level of coefficients of variation (CV) for the survey.

John Gless asked why Tango and Murcotts would be the only mandarin varieties included in the survey. Stark explained that NASS said it would be best to take on one new survey rather than two. Stark also mentioned that due to the amount of acreage planted, Clementine growers may not benefit from the additional cost of a survey.

Brenda Hill reported that NASS has been working to establish a CV for mandarins that is similar to navels. Hill noted that the sample sizes for a CV of 15 percent would be 177 samples and a CV of 10 percent would be 337 samples.

Hill stated that the cost of the survey would be around \$150,000 for a CV of 10. Hill went on to say this included some startup cost which may decrease over time. Hill further explained the survey would be conducted the same time as the Navel survey and may be released a couple weeks after the Navel survey. Hill also said that the mandarin survey would require five years of data collection before being published.

Stark asked when NASS needed a decision by the committee to move forward with the new survey. Hill responded that a decision would be needed by early January to allow for staff adjustments. Discussion continued around which growing districts would be included in the survey. Hill mentioned this has not been determined and will be based on information gained from this years' acreage survey. Discussion continued around what the minimum packable size for mandarins would be and concluded this would need to be addressed in the future.

Chair Woods asked whether the Committee would like to move forward with the Tango and Murcott Mandarin survey.

MOTION: Brad Bishel moved to allow NASS to begin preliminary work on a Tango and Murcott Mandarin survey with a CV of 10 percent and a sample size of 337. John Gless seconded the Motion. The Motion was amended to add the CV and sample size. Gless and Bishel accepted the amended Motion to add the CV into the motion. The Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 8: AG STATISTICS

Hill shared that NASS is currently looking for industry feedback on the new Cara Cara survey conducted this year. Hill explained that contact information to provide feedback is available on the NASS website.

ITEM 9: COUNTY MATURITY PROGRESS REPORTS

Counties in attendance reported the following:

Eddy Greynolds reported that harvest began in Kern County on October 16 with four of their six packing houses receiving fruit. The County tested on 263 lots and reported one load failing on November 6. Gustavo Carranza asked if most of Kern's work is conducted in the field or at packing houses. Greynolds responded that their work is primarily in the field with mobile presses. Carranza stressed the importance of County inspectors being visible during harvest.

Jonathan Bixler reported for Tulare County stating that 29 packing houses are currently receiving fruit. Bixler also reported that 115 tests have been performed with no rejections.

Scotti Walker provided the report for Fresno County indicating 13 of the County's 17 packing houses were operating. Walker went onto report that 479 tests have been performed with seven disposal orders issued. Three of the disposal orders are pending a second test, three have passed the second test, and one failed the second test and was disposed of.

Steve Schweizer provided the report for Kings County. Schweizer stated that Kings County has conducted three tests with no rejections.

Daniel Delgado reported that Riverside County has two packing houses receiving fruit. Most tests were over 100 and no rejections reported.

Batchelor provided reports for San Diego and Ventura County. San Diego County has received two loads that both tested over 100. Ventura County has conducted 18 tests with five loads failing the first maturity test. The second test for the five loads resulted in one passing and four that were rejected and disposed of.

The Committee expressed some concern about stopping maturity and suggested a conference call to discuss maturity at a later date. It was decided that a teleconference should be held on December 12 at 10:00 am.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 10, 2020 at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

A teleconference meeting will be held Thursday, December 12, 2019, at the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Gateway Oaks Office.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. by Chair Woods.

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 a long, sweeping tail.

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