



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
December 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gus Gunderson, Chair
James Sherwood, Vice-Chair
John Eliot, Jr.
David Hines
Seth Wollenman
John Gless
Mark Golden
Etienne Rabe
Curtis Holmes

INTERESTED PARTIES

Gavin Iacono, Tulare County
Scott Cornett, Tulare County
Kerry Dufraim, Ventura County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Michelle Thom, Santa Clara County
Jennifer Stilwill, Kern County
Ron Bray, Riverside County
Bob Blakely, CA Citrus Mutual

CDFA

Steve Patton
Stacey Hughes
Andrew Valero
Sarah Cardoni

MEMBERS ABSENT

Keeley Bramer

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mr. Steve Patton. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor opened for nominations.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to elect Mr. Gus Gunderson to serve as Chairperson. Dr. Etienne Rabe seconded. A roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Gunderson was appointed Chairperson of the CCAC.

MOTION: Mr. Golden moved to elect Mr. James Sherwood to serve as Vice-Chair. Dr. Etienne Rabe seconded. A roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Sherwood was appointed Vice-Chair of the CCAC.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE TERMS AND VACANCIES

Ms. Sarah Cardoni provided an update on committee terms and vacancies. Currently, there are two handler member vacancies on the committee. Members whose terms will expire on September 30, 2013, and are eligible for reappointment are Mr. David Hines, Mr. Mark Golden, and Mr. Keeley Bramer. Dr. Etienne Rabe, Mr. James Sherwood, and Mr. John Eliot, Jr. will term out on September 30, 2013.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Golden moved to approve the April 3, 2012 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. Wollenman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: MATURITY UPDATE (COUNTIES)

Ms. Jennifer Stilwill provided a maturity update for Kern County. She stated that the maturity in Kern County is excellent this year. There was one notice of noncompliance issued for maturity issues that was reconditioned and passed upon the second test. There were 571 lots inspected for November, which is well over one million cartons. There were 2,300 cartons rejected, the previously mentioned cartons that were reconditioned. Kern County has spent 655 hours inspecting for maturity and has expended 51% of their budget as of November.

Mr. Scott Cornett provided a maturity update for Tulare County. He stated that there have been no maturity issues so far this season, although they have seen a few low tests that have passed upon official testing. In October, there were 451 lots inspected, which was 354,000 containers. In November, there were 399 lots inspected, totaling just under one million cartons. Also in November, 1,042 premises were inspected. Tulare County has expended roughly 50% of their budget.

Ms. Scotti Walker provided a maturity update for Fresno County. She stated that there have been no maturity issues so far, and similar to Tulare County, they have seen some low tests that have passed upon official testing. There was one noncompliance issued for 300 cartons unrelated to maturity, which was corrected and released. For October and November, there were 679 premises, 751 lots, and 794,000 cartons inspected. There were 300 cartons rejected for labeling issues, as previously mentioned, that were released upon correction. Fresno County spent 1,109 hours conducting 747 maturity tests and has expended 19% of their budget.

Ms. Kerry Dufrain provided a maturity update for Ventura County. She stated that there has been minimal testing because they have only one packinghouse that is running fruit from the north. Although maturity tests have been running high, there have been no rejections. Ventura County inspected just fewer than 5,000 cartons and has expended less than 10% of their budget.

Mr. Ron Bray provided a maturity update for Riverside County. He stated that similar to Ventura County everything has been high; however, no rejections have been issued. There were 13 premises inspections conducted and 101 maturity tests performed. There were 118,325 cartons inspected with zero noncompliances issued. Riverside County has spent just under 90 hours conducting maturity inspections and has expended 21% of their budget. Mr. Bray stated that in the next few weeks they expect to receive local fruit coming into their packinghouses and requested to extend maturity testing into January.

Ms. Michelle Thom provided a maturity update for Santa Clara County. She stated that there have been no issues concerning citrus maturity this season, although they did see some low acid scores. There were 3 maturity tests conducted, totaling 32,000 containers. Santa Clara County has expended roughly 20% of their budget.

ITEM 6: CONTINUATION OF MATURITY TESTING

Mr. Patton stated that maturity is good this year and there is no need for counties to continue to perform maturity testing. As always, the southern counties of Ventura, San Bernardino, and Santa Clara can continue maturity testing into January for their local fruit. Ms. Stacey Hughes stated that a timeline for counties to end maturity testing should be established for consistency purposes.

Mr. Golden recommended that maturity testing end December 21, 2012, for all valley counties, and during the first week of January 2013 for the southern counties. Mr. Bray requested that maturity testing be extended to January 15, 2013, for the southern counties. The committee agreed that maturity testing will end on December 21, 2012, for all counties with the exception of the southern counties of Ventura, San Bernardino, and Santa Clara, whose maturity testing will end January 15, 2013.

ITEM 7: NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Rabe discussed scoring mandarins for freeze damage and requested that it be put on the next agenda.

ITEM 8: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. by Mr. Gunderson, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by:



Steve Patton, Branch Chief
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services