



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John S. Gless – Chair
Gustavo Carranza – Vice
Chair
Brad Bishel
Tom Mayhew
Maribel Nenna
Sonya Carrillo
David Haas Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

George McEwen

INTERESTED PARTIES

Gary Keough – National Agricultural
Statistics Service (NASS)
Alyssa Houtby – CA Citrus Mutual
Sam Botkin – CA Citrus Growers
Assoc.
Monica Winters – San Diego Co.
Jeffery Klitz – Fresno Co.
Amanda Zito – Fresno Co.
Scotti Walker – Fresno Co.
Eddy Greynolds – Kern Co.
Christopher Greer – Tulare Co.
Nicole Motley – Tulare Co.
Dhiraj Gautam – Los Angeles Co.
Nina Zlatkov – Los Angeles Co.
John Beall – Ventura Co.
Mario Gutierrez – Kings Co.
Shanna Robbins – Kings Co.
Misael Martinez – Riverside Co.
Sarah Mellor – San Bernardino Co.
Christina Saenger
Jeremy Hamlin
Joshua Thompson
Michael Ruiz

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Stacey Hughes
Karrie Batchelor
Anna Carrasquillo
Thomas Osborn

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair John Gless.

ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Thomas Osborn. A quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 4: REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gless requested a motion to approve the November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

A revision to Item 9: County Orange Maturity Progress Reports was made to correct that Kern County had 193 inspections conducted with no tests below 90.

MOTION: Brad Bishel moved to approve the November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes as amended. Maribel Nenna seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Karrie Batchelor provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. There are currently four Producer member vacancies: one of lemons from Ventura County; one of navels and valencias from the San Joaquin Valley; one of lemons from any county; and one of mandarins from any county.

ITEM 6: COUNTY ACTIVITY AND EXPENSE SUMMARY FY 2021/22

Batchelor presented the County Activity and Expense Summary for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 crop year, as of December 2021. Harvesting began October 8, 2021, and mandatory maturity testing ended on December 8, 2021. There were 2,765 lots and 2,814,601 containers inspected, with 2,787 maturity tests conducted for the five contracted counties: Fresno, Kern, Riverside, Tulare, and Ventura. Fifty percent of County Agreements have been exhausted, with \$216,067 of \$430,026 invoiced through December 2021. Current expenditures are thus far consistent with prior years.

ITEM 7: BUDGET REVIEW

i. FY 2022/23 PROPOSED NASS BUDGET

Gary Keough, NASS Pacific Region Director, presented the FY 2022/23 NASS Budget. Total proposed expenditures for FY 2022/23 are \$436,801 and include: \$42,307 for Salaries and Benefits; \$31,194 in Operating Expenses; \$138,223 for the Navel Objective Measurement (OM) survey; \$77,000 for the Valencia OM survey; \$71,777 for the Cara Cara OM survey; \$81,000 for the Mandarin OM survey; with a projected gas tax credit of \$4,700. Keough noted that Mandarin Objective Measurement Survey costs are reduced from FY 2020/21 due to the completion of the initial survey startup work.

ii. FY 2022/23 PROJECTED REVENUE

Batchelor presented the FY 2022/23 Projected Revenue. Batchelor noted that the projections are based on current assessment rates which are: 3 mills for valencias and navels; 2 mills for mandarins; and 1 mill for lemons. The projected revenue for FY 2022/23 is \$420,454.

iii. FY 2022/23 PROPOSED CITRUS PROGRAM BUDGET

Batchelor presented the Proposed FY 2022/23 Citrus Program Budget. The beginning fund balance is \$2,287,328. With keeping assessment rates at their current levels, proposed revenue by commodity is: \$288,088 for navel and valencias; \$38,855 for lemons; and \$93,512 for mandarins. When adding \$4,323 in Ag Fund interest and \$1,383 in late fees, the total proposed revenue is \$426,161, bringing the total available cash for FY 2022/23 to \$2,713,489. Proposed expenditures are \$866,827 and include \$436,801 for NASS and Cdfa Marketing Services and \$430,026 in County

Agreements. With a projected gas tax credit of \$10,000 and a cash adjustment for statewide costs of \$41,809, there is an ending balance of \$1,814,853.

Batchelor noted that the program is running a negative budget and mentioned that the CCAC may have to consider an assessment increase in the future.

MOTION: Brad Bishel moved to maintain assessment rates at their current rates. Sonya Carrillo seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: David Haas Jr. moved to approve the FY 2022/23 Proposed Citrus Program Budget as presented. Tom Mayhew seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 8: SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The Orange Maturity Inspection Subcommittee did not meet; therefore, there were no updates to report.

ITEM 9: PROGRAM UPDATES

Batchelor reported that a user of an experimental container permit for oranges chose not to renew their permit. At this time, there are no experimental container permits that have been issued.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m. by Chair Gless.

Respectfully submitted by:

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