



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
March 17, 2015, Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina St., Tulare, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gus Gunderson, Chairman
Keeley Bramer, Vice Chair
Seth Wollenman
Al Bates
Scott Woods
John Gless

INTERESTED PARTIES

Scott Cornett, Tulare County
Tom Tucker, Tulare County
Fred Rinder, Fresno County
Steve Schweizer, Kings County
Jennifer Stilwill, Kern County
Bob Blakely, CCM
Dusty Ference, CCM

CDFFA

Stacey Hughes
Andrea Todd
Karrie Batchelor
Laurel Rudolph

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Hines
Curtis Holmes
Michael Stark
Mark Golden

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mr. Gus Gunderson, Chairman. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Al Bates moved to approve the October 28, 2014, Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. Keeley Bramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

MOTION: Mr. Seth Wollenman moved to approve the November 18, 2014, meeting minutes, as submitted. Mr. Scott Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 3: COUNTY ACTIVITY AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014/15

Mr. Gus Gunderson presented the county activity and expense report.

Fresno County inspected 764 premises, 649 lots, and 690,834 containers with no lots rejected. They also conducted 35 maturity tests, with no rejections. They used 61% of their total budget.

Kern County inspected 211 premises and 780 lots, with no lots rejected. The County also inspected 1,698,437 containers, with no rejections, and conducted 864 maturity tests. They used 63.47% of their total budget.

Riverside County inspected 24 premises, and 63 lots with no lots rejected. The county also inspected 46,888 containers, with no rejections, and conducted 35 maturity tests. They used a little more than 44% of their total budget.

Santa Clara County inspected 12 premises and 63 lots, with no lots rejected. They inspected 56,275 containers with no rejections, and conducted 63 maturity tests. The county used 41% of their total budget.

Tulare County inspected 884 premises and 2,793 lots, with no lots rejected. They inspected 2,085,057 containers, with no rejections, and conducted 2,793 maturity tests. The county used 22% of their total budget.

Ventura County inspected 10 premises and 11 lots, with no lots rejected. They inspected 11,297 containers, with no rejections, and conducted 11 maturity tests. The county used 100% of their total budget.

ITEM 4: BUDGET REVIEW/APPROVAL

a. FY 2014/15 Fund Condition

Ms. Stacey Hughes provided the fund condition report. As of February 1, 2015, the total resources for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014/15 were \$858,755.97 and the total expenditures for the 2014/15 FY was \$653,734.61 (which included prior year expenses of \$235,563), leaving the remaining resources at \$205,021.36. Based on the projected revenue for the rest of the 2014/15 FY the citrus fund balance is estimated to be at \$1,089,997 as of July 1st.

b. FY 2015/16 Proposed Citrus County Cooperative Agreements

Ms. Hughes provided the 2015/16 FY proposed citrus county cooperative agreements. The proposals include funding to operate a twelve week orange maturity inspection program in each of the citrus counties. The total funded for the 2015/16 FY is \$466,807 which is proposed to be allocated to each county as follows:

- Fresno County: \$118,243
- Kern County: \$97,599
- Riverside County: \$15,388
- Santa Clara County: \$7,458
- Tulare County: \$222,441
- Ventura County: \$5,678

c. FY 2015/16 Proposed Citrus Program Budget

Ms. Hughes discussed the proposed Citrus Program Budget. The projected fund balance for the 2015/16 FY is \$1,089,997. The projected revenue to be collected is \$1,341,646. The projected revenue shown for each commodity is based on the current assessment rates which are at their max levels allowed by statute. The expected available resources for the 2015/16 FY are \$2,431,643. The proposed expenditures are \$774,192, with an ending balance of \$1,657,451.

d. FY 2015/16 Projected Revenue at Current Assessment Levels

Ms. Hughes discussed the 2015/16 FY projected revenue at the current assessment levels. This report shows the number of containers for each commodity based on a three year average. The report also shows what is projected to be collected by commodity based on the month the assessments are reported.

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to approve the 2015/16 FY budget as submitted. Mr. Al Bates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

MOTION: Mr. Keeley Bramer moved to keep all assessment rates at the max level approved by statute. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: CITRUS ACCOUNT WITH BANK OF AMERICA

Ms. Hughes presented the update on the citrus account with Bank of America and the Agricultural Fund. The Agricultural Fund account currently yields .249%. The Bank of America accounts interest rate is .05%. CDFA has currently stopped making the monthly transfers into the Bank of America account, since there is no reserve. Once all of the expenditures are paid, the monthly transfers will resume.

ITEM 6: REGULATION UPDATES

a. State

Ms. Hughes discussed regulatory updates. She discussed the new cherry regulation changes that went into effect on March 17, 2015. The new language includes changes to labeling and size requirements. Non-consumer containers of cherries are now required to be labeled with the varietal name of the cherry or the term "Sweet Cherries" The minimum size for cherries was changed to 12 row size or 51/64 inch minimum diameter.

These changes were made primarily to allow California growers to compete with growers in the North West, who already use this terminology.

The Department is also working with the citrus industry in developing regulatory changes related to non-standard containers and counts. Several citrus handlers have been experimenting with various container dimension and counts for the past few years. The industry plans to submit a petition to the Secretary as soon as possible since most experimental permits will be expiring prior to the next navel harvest season.

Several experimental container and pack permits were recently issued for Mandarins and Tangerines. This container is primarily being experimented with for export shipments.

b. Regulation Subcommittee

Bob Blakely of the California Citrus Mutual (CCM) reported the industry has been meeting to develop a petition that would make changes to standard container regulations adding three RPC's currently in the experimental container and pack program. It was also reported that a mandarin container, used mainly for export, was entering into the experimental container and pack program.

Mr. Blakely reported that pursuing a change to the existing cut used to measure freeze damage in oranges once Date B has been declared would require additional research that could only be gathered during a freeze event.

The Regulation Subcommittee had no additional information to report at this time regarding the proposed reconditioning procedures for oranges failing for freeze damage.

ITEM 7: AG STATISTICS

Mr. Vic Tolomeo from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) discussed the Agricultural Statistics. The Valencia forecast was released on March 1, 2015, and the Navel forecast will be released on September 10, 2015. The forecast from the March 1, 2015 survey was 20 million cartons of Valencia's. NASS returns to the same block each year to determine a consistent forecast. When new citrus varieties arise, USDA will do an estimate on production, but not a forecast.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ITEM 9: PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be November 10, 2015, in Bakersfield, CA.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gunderson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karrie Batchelor', with the letters 'FOR' written in a smaller font to the right of the signature.

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