



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
March 10, 2016, Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina St., Tulare, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gus Gunderson, Chairman
Keeley Bramer, Vice Chair
Seth Wollenman
Scott Woods
John Gless
Mark Golden
Michael Stark

INTERESTED PARTIES

Scott Cornett, Tulare County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
PK Kumar, Fresno County
Ron Bray, Riverside County
Bob Blakely, CCM
Chris Messer, USDA, NASS

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Stacey Hughes
Karrie Batchelor
Laurel Rudolph

MEMBERS ABSENT

Curtis Holmes
Al Bates

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: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Gunderson asked for a motion to approve the November 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the November 10, 2015, Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 4: AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Ms. Chris Messer from the United States Department of Agricultural (USDA), National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) spoke about NASS's process for information gathering and what they do with the data collected. Ms. Messer explained the increase in cost to the measurement objectives for this year is staffing issues, and recent regulation changes related to employees attribute. The Committee asked NASS if it is possible to separate Cara caras from the Navel Measurement Objective. The reason for the discussion is Navels and Cara caras are both surveyed and reported as one. Ms.

Messer told the committee that she would need to research the feasibility and cost to separate.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to ask NASS to look into the feasibility and cost on separating out Cara caras in the annual survey (measurement objective) and bi-annual acreage surveys. Mr. Michael Stark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

The Committee also discussed the feasibility and cost to have NASS add Mandarins into the objective measurements.

MOTION: Mr. Michael Stark moved to ask NASS look into the feasibility and cost to add Mandarin and all Mandarin hybrid types to the object measurements. Mr. Mark Golden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: COUNTY ACTIVITY AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/16

Fresno County inspected 586 premises, 504 lots, and a total of 547,438 containers with no rejections. 504 maturity tests were conducted using a total of 51% of their budget.

Kern County inspected 264 premises, 331 lots, and a total of 1,011,509 containers with no lots rejections. 244 maturity tests were conducted using a total of 48% of their budget.

Riverside County inspected 24 premises, 128 lots and a total of 161,850 containers with no rejections. 128 maturity tests were conducted using a total of 38% of their total budget.

Santa Clara County inspected 7 premises, 40 lots and a total of 32,450 containers with no rejections. 40 maturity tests were conducted using a total of 31% of their total budget.

Tulare County inspected 556 premises, 1,132 lots and a total of 998,838 containers with no rejections. 1,132 maturity tests were conducted using a total of 18% of their total budget.

Ventura County inspected 9 premises, 10 lots and a total of 13,884 containers with no rejections. 10 maturity tests were conducted using a total of 62% of their total budget.

The counties in attendance were available for questions or comments. Ms. Batchelor noted that of the total cost of the citrus maturity program, less than \$18,000 dollars was used for frost monitoring.

ITEM 6: BUDGET REVIEW/APPROVAL

a. FY 2015/16 Fund Condition

Ms. Karrie Batchelor provided the fund condition report. As of December 31, 2015, the total resources for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/16 were \$1,302,158.94 and the total expenditures were \$364,051.23. The remaining resources are \$938,107.71.

b. FY 2016/17 Proposed Citrus County Cooperative Agreements

Ms. Batchelor provided the 2016/17 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 2016/17 FY is \$469,020, which is proposed to be allocated to each county as follows:

- Fresno County: \$118,243
- Kern County: \$97,598
- Riverside County: \$15,388
- Santa Clara County: \$7,379
- Tulare County: \$222,412
- Ventura County: \$8,000

c. FY 2016/17 Proposed Citrus Program Budget at Current Assessment Rate

Ms. Batchelor discussed the Proposed Citrus Program Budget at the Current Assessment Rate. The projected fund balance for the 2016/17 FY is \$1,997,435. The projected revenue is \$1,311,756. The projected revenue shown for each commodity is based on the current assessment rates, which are at their maximum levels allowed by statute. The expected available resources for the 2016/17 FY are \$3,309,191. The proposed expenditures are \$686,251, with an ending balance of \$2,622,940.

d. FY 2016/17 Projected Revenue at Current Assessment Rate

Ms. Batchelor discussed the 2016/17 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.

e. FY 2016/17 Projected Citrus Program Budget at a Reduced Assessment Rate

Ms. Batchelor discussed the Projected Citrus Program Budget at a Reduced Assessment Rate. The projected beginning fund balance is \$1,997,435, and the projected revenue is \$685,843. The projected revenue shown for each commodity is

based on the reduced assessment rates from 2013 before they were raised to the current level. The expected available resources for the 2016/17 FY are \$2,683,278. The proposed expenditures are \$686,251 with an ending balance of \$1,997,027.

f. FY 2016/17 Proposed Revenue at Reduced Assessment Rate

Ms. Batchelor discussed the 2016/17 FY projected revenue at a reduced assessment rates. 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.

Discussion to keep the assessments at the current rates or reduce the assessment rates continued with dialog focusing on replenishing the reserve used for future freeze inspection activities.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the proposed budget which includes assessment rates at the maximum level. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. Mr. Scott Woods opposed, the motion passed with a majority vote.

There was some discussion about the added cost for the request of the extra statistical work from NASS for the measurement objective for the Cara caras and Mandarins. The committee decided that \$100,000 would be an appropriate amount for the potential extra work from NASS.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve an additional \$100,000 to be used for the potential new measurement objective survey for Cara cara's and Mandarins and Mandarin hybrid types. Mr. Seth Wollenman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

ITEM 7: PROGRAM UPDATES

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations have been released. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have received funds for the program and want to first use those funds for education and outreach. The FDA will start working with the produce industry to develop models for training to make certain the industry is knowledgeable of the new rules. It is not yet clear which agency will be in charge of enforcement. California is currently in the process of implementing a California Good Agricultural Practices Audit (CGAP), based on the FSMA rule. Bob Blakely of California Citrus Mutual, discussed the USDA Group GAP food safety audit for smaller growers and packinghouses. This certification would allow small growers to be audited as a unit. The challenge is the USDA is still trying to get their audit Global Food Safety Initiative certified.

Steve Patton was asked about the potential additional cost to administer the state citrus program. Steve discussed having a presentation covering the topic at our fall meeting.

Mr. Patton discussed the new Medical Cannabis Cultivation Program (MCCP). The new program will be under the Inspections Services Division, and has recently hired a program manager to help develop the new program. MCCP will work with growers to be licensed and certified.

Mr. Patton also announced that Rick Jenson, Director of Inspection Services will be retiring on July 1st.

Ms. Batchelor discussed the mandarin experimental container and pack permits. There are currently 15 experimental containers and pack permit issued. Several of the permits are on their first renewal, with one additional renewal remaining. Ms. Batchelor emphasized the need for the industry to draft a petition if they want to move forward with standardizing the new container and pack. This would need to take place prior to the permits expiring.

Mr. Bob Blakely discussed the potential petition to change procedures for reconditioning frost damaged fruit. He said that after studying the information the counties presented, there was not enough evidence to justify making a regulatory change.

ITEM 8: NEXT MEETING DATE/ FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be November 9, 2016, in Kern County.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mark Golden moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 am. Mr. Scott Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted by:

 FOR

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