



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brad Bishel – Chair
Gustavo Carranza – Vice
Chair
John S. Gless
Tom Mayhew
Michael Stark
Dave Tomlinson
Scott Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

George McEwen

INTERESTED PARTIES

Amanda Zito – Fresno County
Scotti Walker – Fresno County
Eddy Greynolds – Kern County
Steve Schweizer – Kings
County
Misael Martinez – Riverside
County
Monica Winters – San Diego
County
Tesfaye Jimma – Tulare County
Korrine Bell – Ventura County
Monica Winters – San Diego
County
David Wirta – Ventura County
Gary Keough – National
Agricultural Statistics Service
(NASS)
Jeff Olson – NASS

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Karrie Batchelor
Anna Carrasquillo
Andrea Todd
Mitchell King

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Karrie Batchelor.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Roll was called by Mitchell King. A quorum was established, and introductions were made. Both Gustavo Carranza and Tom Mayhew arrived at 10:15 a.m., during Agenda Item 4.

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Batchelor opened the floor to nominations for Chair.

MOTION: Scott Woods nominated Brad Bishel for Chair. John Gless seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Batchelor opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: Scott Woods nominated Gustavo Carranza for Vice Chair. John Gless seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCY & TERMS REPORT

King provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report.

Steve Patton encouraged the county and industry representatives to submit recommendations to help fill vacancies on the Committee.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 6: REVIEW OF MARCH 10, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Brad Bishel asked for a motion to approve of the March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION: Michael Stark moved to approve of the March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented. Scott Woods seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: FUND CONDITION REPORT

Batchelor presented the Fund Condition Report.

As of June 30, 2020, the Beginning Fund Balance was \$2,889,564. Projected Revenue for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/21 was \$448,807 for a total of \$3,338,371 in available resources. Projected Expenditures for FY 2020/21 was \$975,587, with a Cash Adjustment of \$34,795 and a Gas Tax credit of \$13,000 for a Projected Ending Balance of \$2,340,989.

ITEM 8: NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS) UPDATE

i. NASS Website Links

Gary Keough of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NASS provided an overview of reports by NASS, including the 2019-2020 Valencia Objective Measurement (OM) Report, the 2020 Citrus Acreage Report, the 2020-2021 Navel Orange OM Forecast, and the 2020-21 Mandarin OM Press Release. Keough stated that a full published Mandarin Objective Measurement may be available in 2024 and will continue to share the crop set and size data until published.

ii. CASS Estimate D1 Navel Five Year Comparison

Keough provided information on the CASS Estimate D1 Navel Five-Year Comparison. Keough stated NASS staff have had discussions about expanding their sample size to reduce variability and allow for more accurate data. There was discussion regarding the procedures of collecting data and the projected diameter size for the estimate. Keough explained that the projected diameter ratio will vary from year to year. NASS uses a

five-year average when projecting diameter size which would account for different size projections. Keogh went on to explain that the number of acres and trees surveyed would also affect the estimate. Keogh noted the acreage or trees surveyed was down this year from the 2016-17 estimate.

Carranza asked why the current year's estimate size 60 with a diameter of 2.21 when compared to the 2016-17 size 75, which was slightly bigger, have the same carton estimate. Keogh mentioned that some of the differences could be attributed to fewer trees or acres as well as tree set could impact the estimate. Discussion continued with questions around the 2019-20 and 2020-21 estimate.

ITEM 9: COUNTY ORANGE MATURITY PROGRESS REPORTS

County agricultural staff present provided their Orange Maturity Progress Reports.

Eddie Greynolds provided the update for Kern County. Kern County had no rejections since beginning their maturity testing in October. Kern County inspected 262 lots and performed 263 maturity tests.

Tesfaye Jimma provided the update for Tulare County. Tulare County performed 367 maturity tests in October with one cursory test scoring less than 90. In November, Tulare performed 495 maturity tests with six cursory tests below 90, two of which passed, and two others failed the first official test.

Scotti Walker provided the update for Fresno County. Fresno County performed 813 maturity tests with six lots requiring an official test which they passed.

David Wirta provided the update for Ventura County. Ventura received six lots from Kern County, and all passed maturity testing.

Misael Martinez provided the update for Riverside County. Riverside received two certified loads from Ventura to date.

Monica Winters provided the update for San Diego County. San Diego received 10 loads, all from Fresno County, and all passed maturity testing.

Batchelor provided the update for Kings County. Kings County began receiving fruit from Kern County in October and had no rejections.

Batchelor asked the committee to discuss whether to declare citrus maturity and halt mandatory testing. Batchelor informed the committee that a follow up meeting could be held in early December. Discussion ensued among committee members regarding holding a meeting in December to revisit citrus maturity.

After discussing dates for the next meeting, the committee decided to revisit citrus maturity on the 8th of December 2020.

ITEM 10: SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Bishel provided the Subcommittee Update.

A subcommittee of the CCAC met with county staff on October 13, 2020, to discuss the operations and costs associated with them in each county in an effort to identify areas where efficiency improvements might be made.

According to Chair Bishel, the subcommittee found that each of the counties' citrus programs are ran differently due to their individual county requirements. Chair Bishel also expressed that these differing requirements from county supervisors contributes to the variations in spending on citrus activities among the counties.

There was a period of discussion regarding the differences between each county's operations and structure. Amanda Zito stated that Fresno County just started their citrus tarping program and may not see a difference in cost sharing this year but should be reflected next season. Zito reported that preliminary estimates indicate cost savings of 25 to 30 percent due to inspectors performing both maturity and citrus tarping inspections. Scott Woods stated that it was very beneficial to meet with county staff and learn the details of their operations. Woods noted that while there is always room to become more efficient, the work done by the counties is appreciated as is their willingness to discuss operations with the subcommittee. Batchelor asked if the members of the committee felt it necessary to continue the work of the subcommittee. Several members agreed that it would benefit current and future members of the committee and the counties to continue discussions between subcommittee members and county staff.

There was discussion regarding whether the citrus maturity program should be shortened from its current form. Woods suggested that shortening the time for maturity testing may be useful given the maturity of the crop in recent years. Chair Bishel suggested caution with shortening maturity to avoid creating future problems should trends in maturity change. Patton voiced concern that citrus is considered a mandatory inspection program, and that discussion of condensing the maturity season should bear in mind that shortening the maturity inspection program may lead to challenges. Discussion continued and it was decided to continue to have the subcommittee meet in late spring or summer to review this seasons cost, inspection data and revisit county budgets.

ITEM 11: PROGRAM UPDATES

Batchelor provided Program Updates. Batchelor discussed the assessment increase approved by the Standardization Advisory Committee that was set to go into effect July 1, 2020, was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee voted in October to reinstate the assessment increase, effective July 1, 2021. Batchelor went on to discuss the current experimental pack permit for citrus and if renewed would be on its final renewal. Patton provided an update on the Food Safety Modernization Act.

ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom.

A meeting will also be held March 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. by Chair Bishel.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karrie Batchelor".

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