



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Tomlinson

INTERESTED PARTIES

Tesfaye Jimma –Tulare County
Eddy Greynolds – Kern County
Amanda Zito – Fresno County
Angel Gibson – Fresno County
Scotty Walker – Fresno County
Jennifer Estrada – Fresno
County
Carolina Evangelo – Citrus
Research Board
Joel Reyes – California Citrus
Mutual (CCM)
Casey Creamer – CCM
Gary Keough – National
Agricultural Statistics Service
(NASS)
David Wirta – Ventura County

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Mitchell King
Karrie Batchelor

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Scott Woods, Chair. Introductions were made. Roll was called by Mitchell King and a quorum was established. Tom Mayhew arrived at 10:05 a.m. during the Committee Vacancies and Terms Report.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

- i. November 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- ii. December 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chair Woods asked for a motion to approve both the November 13, 2019 and December 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION: John Gless moved to approve both the November 13, 2019 and December 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented. Michael Stark seconded the motion. The motion passed, with no abstentions.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

King provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. Current vacancies include four producer members: one of navels representing the San Joaquin Valley; one of navel and valencia representing Fresno County; one of lemons representing Ventura County; and one of mandarins. King also provided the names of members eligible for reappointment as of September 30, 2020.

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

ITEM 5: COUNTY ACTIVITY AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR FY 19/20

Karrie Batchelor provided the Committee with the County Activity and Expense Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20.

Fresno County has inspected 1,091 premises, 1,195 lots with one rejection and a total of 1,235,741 containers. Fresno County has performed 1,138 maturity tests and used 93 percent of their budget.

Kern County has inspected 283 premises, 675 lots, and a total of 693,350 containers, with no rejections. Kern County has performed 576 maturity tests and used 38 percent of their budget.

Riverside County has inspected 16 premises, 33 lots, and 40,263 containers, with no rejections. Riverside County has performed 42 maturity tests and used 81 percent of their budget.

Tulare County has inspected 758 premises, 2,466 lots, and 1,663,096 containers, with no rejections. Tulare County has performed 874 maturity tests and used 25 percent of their budget.

Ventura County has inspected 25 premises, 36 lots with one rejection, and 42,075 containers, with 4,325 rejections. Ventura County has performed 36 maturity tests and used 85 percent of their budget.

As of January, the counties have used 49 percent of their total budget.

Chair Woods asked Fresno County for clarification on their expenses, noting that Fresno County appears to spend more than others. This led to a discussion between the Committee and Fresno County's maturity program processes and costs.

Chair Woods discussed forming a subcommittee to meet with each county and identify areas for improvement.

MOTION: Brad Bishel motioned to form a subcommittee to meet with each county to review operations and identify ways to enhance efficiency. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and will comprise of Scott Woods, John Gless, Brad Bishel, and Gustavo Carranza. Brad Bishel will serve as the chair of the subcommittee.

ITEM 6: BUDGET REVIEW

i. FY 20/21 Proposed NASS Budget

Gary Keough from United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) presented the FY 20/21 Proposed NASS Budget for the NASS Orange Crop Program to the Committee. The proposed budget includes \$152,420 for a Navel Objective Measurement (OM) Survey, \$72,000 for a Valencia OM Survey, \$54,580 for a Cara Cara OM Survey, and \$150,000 for a Mandarin (Tango and Murcott) OM Survey. Total salary and benefits are \$38,491. Operating expenses are \$37,424, with a gas tax credit of \$4,000, bringing total expenditures to \$500,915.

Keough noted the need for a size chart to complete the new Mandarin OM Survey. Michael Stark discussed working with Al Bates of Sun Pacific to finalize a size chart that would soon be delivered to NASS.

The discussion continued with Keough asking for the standard carton size for mandarins. Stark determined the standard carton size would be based on a five-pound carton, with the total estimate converted back to a bin made up of 175 cartons. The Committee agreed and Stark indicated that the conversions would be included in the size chart. Keough then asked if the new Mandarin OM Survey would include all varieties of mandarins. The Committee clarified the survey would include Tango and Murcott varieties.

Keough asked if moving the acreage survey release date from August 4th to August 12th to coincide with the NASS August Crop Production report would be a problem for the industry. The Committee determined that the release date change would not be a problem. Chair Woods asked if the new mandarin forecast would be released the same time as the navel forecast. Keough responded that these reports would be released at nearly the same time.

Casey Creamer of California Citrus Mutual mentioned that the USDA announced funding for the 2020 FY to support citrus commodity surveys in California and Louisiana. Creamer asked Keough if this funding was related to the citrus OM surveys. Creamer wanted to know if this funding could be used to offset survey costs. Keough was not aware of the funding and noted it would be looked into.

ii. FY 20/21 Projected Revenue

Batchelor presented the FY 20/21 Projected Revenue. Batchelor noted that the proposed mandarin assessment rate has been adjusted to four mills to account for the cost of the new mandarin forecast.

iii. FY 20/21 Proposed Citrus Program Budget

Batchelor presented the FY 20/21 Proposed Citrus Program Budget. The projected beginning fund balance for FY 20/21 is \$2,735,429 with a projected revenue of \$520,456. Expected available cash is \$3,255,885, total projected expenditures are \$975,587. The projected ending balance is \$2,258,503. Batchelor also reviewed the

proposed county cooperative agreements. The FY 20/21 proposed county agreements are: \$118,243 for Fresno County; \$97,599 for Kern County; \$15,388 for Riverside County; \$222,442 for Tulare County; and \$17,000 for Ventura County.

MOTION: Michael Stark moved to raise mandarin assessments to two mills and leave all others at their current rate. George McEwen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Woods requested a motion to approve the Proposed Citrus Program Budget with an amendment to increase the mandarin assessment rate to two mills instead of the proposed four mills.

MOTION: Tom Mayhew moved to approve the Proposed Citrus Program Budget with the amended mandarin assessment rate. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: PROGRAM UPDATES

Patton discussed the Produce Safety Program. Patton stated that the Produce Safety Program will be growing and that CDFA will be submitting a proposal for a five-year plan to USDA to renew the Program through 2025. USDA has asked that 10 percent of farms be inspected annually. Patton said that all farms are subject to inspections conducted by the Produce Safety Program, with very small farms being inspected beginning in 2021. Patton further detailed the number of farms in the state and the process for handling violations during inspections, Patton clarified that there are no fines unless there are egregious conditions found while inspecting.

Batchelor discussed the upcoming cherry season and stated the county training sessions will be held in April. Batchelor also mentioned that there is currently one experimental pack permit issued for oranges on its last renewal.

ITEM 8: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2020, at 10:00 AM, at the University of California Cooperative Extension – Kern County, in Bakersfield, CA.

Chair Woods requested an update from Bishel on the progress of the subcommittee at the next meeting.

Chair Woods also asked that NASS provide an update on the mandarin data collection efforts. Keough indicated that NASS would only be able to provide tree counts but would investigate what additional information could be shared with the Committee prior to publishing the surveys.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m. by Chair Woods.

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