



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COPAC)**

**May 7, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Archipley – Chair
Phillip LaRocca – Vice Chair
Benjamin Diesl
Jeremy Johnson
Jamie Nessel
Jaclyn Bowen
Mike Menes
Kaley Grimland
John McKeon
Alexis Randolph
Wendy Reynolds
Stacey Carlsen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sean Feder
Blake Alexander
Rosalie Burkett

INTERESTED PARTIES

Jane Sooby, CCOF

CDFA

Marcee Yount
Mitchell King
Scott Renteria
Mayze Fowler-Riggs
Danny Lee
Pam Rodriguez
Andrea Cano
Steve Patton

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Karen Archipley, Chair. Self-introductions were made, roll was called by Mitchell King and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

i. Enforcement and Registration Activities

Wendy Reynolds provided the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updates. Reynolds provided the Committee with an overview of complaints that CDPH has received that remain open; briefly covering the data on complaints for the fiscal years (FY) 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. For the FY 2018/2019, CDPH received 29 complaints, 19 of these complaints are now closed with another 10 in process. For the FY 2019/2020, CDPH has received 18 complaints, with six closed and 12 in process. Reynolds clarified that complaints listed as in process are awaiting further information, investigation, or submittal of a final report. Reynolds also presented information on inspections conducted and revenue collected by CDPH in both FYs 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

There was a period of discussion between members of the Committee and Reynolds regarding steps CDPH has taken to continue working and conducting inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ITEM 3: STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM UPDATES

i. Vacancies and Terms Report

King provided the Vacancies and Terms report. Current vacancies include: one producer representative; one technical representative; one consumer representative; one wholesale distributor representative; five producer alternates; one wholesale distributor alternate; two processor alternates; one consumer representative alternate; one environmental representative alternate; two technical representative alternates; and one retail representative alternate. King also provided the names of members who will be eligible for reappointment as of October 31, 2020.

ii. Compliance and Enforcement Summary

Scott Renteria presented the Compliance and Enforcement Summary for the period of July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020. Renteria noted that the numbers presented were not entirely up to date due to the restraints and limited enforcement activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Renteria added that updated numbers will be presented at the next COPAC meeting. As of March 2020, the State Organic Program (SOP) received 76 complaints and conducted 910 inspections, with the majority conducted at Certified Farmers' Markets. A total of 158 samples were collected, with 147 surveillance samples and 11 investigative samples. Of these 147 surveillance samples, 12 detected residues below tolerance levels, and five detected residues above tolerance levels. There were also 11 investigative samples, of which seven detected residues below tolerance levels and zero detected residues above tolerance levels. A total of five appeals were received, with one active and four closed.

iii. Complaint Activity Report

Renteria provided the Complaint Activity Report. As of March 2020, the State Organic Program (SOP) received 76 complaints in total. Of these complaints: 42 were investigated by CDFA and County Agricultural Commissioner staff; 13 were referred to Accredited Certifying Agents; 15 were referred to CDPH; four were referred to the National Organic Program (NOP); and two were referred to the Organic Input Materials Program.

There was brief discussion between Renteria, Chair Archipley, and Reynolds on how SOP and CDPH handle complaints that have been referred from SOP to CDPH. Chair Archipley asked that CDPH provide a report on how many of their complaints originate from SOP at the next meeting.

iv. Pesticide Sampling Report

Renteria provided the Pesticide Sampling report as of March 2020, detailing the results of samples collected by SOP during routine and investigative efforts.

v. New Registrations

Mayze Fowler-Riggs presented information on New Registrations. Fowler-Riggs noted that for the 2019 calendar year there were 4,304 total registrants, continuing the upward trend seen in previous years.

Jeremy Johnson asked Fowler-Riggs if SOP has noticed a drop in registrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fowler-Riggs stated that there has not been a noticeable drop in applications for organic registration. Johnson asked that Fowler-Riggs provide an update on any trends at the next COPAC meeting.

vi. Revenue from Registration

Fowler-Riggs provided information on Revenue from Registration as of March 2020 to the Committee.

ITEM 4: FY 2020/2021 PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW

Danny Lee presented the FY 2020/2021 Proposed Budget. The total proposed SOP budget is \$2,225,894, with a projected revenue of \$1,715,581. The total personnel services expenses are \$875,570; total operating expenses and equipment costs are \$967,155; and total departmental expenses are \$343,347.

There was discussion between Lee and Johnson regarding underspending in previous years. Lee stated that this is a result of counties not using the entirety of their funds allotted in the SOP budget for enforcement activities. Lee said that counties are becoming more active and have increased their inspection and sampling activities, thus increasing the spending of their available funds.

MOTION: Jeremy Johnson moved to approve the FY 2020/2021 Proposed Budget as submitted. Jaclyn Bowen seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken, with Kaley Grimland, Karen Archipley, Benjamin Diesl, Jeremy Johnson, Jaclyn Bowen, Michael Menes, and Alexis Randolph in favor. The motion passed with Phillip LaRocca and Jamie Nessel abstaining.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Archipley opened the floor to public comments.

Jane Sooby with California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) asked of the need for the January 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes to be reviewed by CDFA's legal department. Lee explained that this review was to ensure that the motions made during that meeting were in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and would be presented to the Committee after this review is completed.

Sooby then asked Fowler-Riggs if the data provided on registrations included data from CDPH. Fowler-Riggs stated that the registration data presented only included organizations registered with CDFA. Fowler-Riggs then explained which types of organizations would be required to register with CDFA and which would register with CDPH.

Michael Menes asked Lee when SOP would be able to provide a timeline for receipt of the January 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Steve Patton explained that the process will move forward as quickly as possible through the necessary reviews.

ITEM 6: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will take place at the CDFA Gateway Oaks Office in September 2020; provided in person meetings are allowed and proper COVID-19 safety precautions can be followed. If the September meeting cannot take place in person, a video conference option, such as Zoom, will be considered. King will be sending a Doodle poll to Committee members to select a date.

Johnson asked that CDPH provide the updates on the Food Safety Fund at the next meeting. Johnson also asked that both CDPH and CDFA provide information on the impact of COVID-19 on new registrations and renewals. Johnson also encouraged both CDPH and CDFA to evaluate video conferencing options.

Kaley Grimland asked that there be an update on organic processing and slaughtering from SOP. Grimland also asked if CDFA could provide an update on the efforts of Thea Rittenhouse as they relate to the SOP. Grimland also asked that there be a discussion of changes made to the Cost Share Program. Renteria and Grimland briefly discussed changes that have been made to processes and procedures in the Cost Share Program.

ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m. by Chair Archipley.

Respectfully submitted by:



Danny Lee, Supervising Special Investigator
State Organic Program