



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (CCAC)
Sacramento, CA
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2009

Members

Robert LoBue
David Hines
Ron Matik
Franco Bernardi
James Sherwood
Kevin Severns
Gus Gunderson
Brett Kirkpatrick
John Eliot

CDFA Representatives

Rick Jensen
Maria Hicks
Andrew Valero
Steve Patton
Susan Shelton
Jeff Cesca

Interested Parties

Rafael Garcia, Tulare County
Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County
Alpha Kamara, Kern County
Richard Bramer, Porterville County
Bob Blakely, Citrus Mutual
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Michelle Tome, Santa Clara County
Bob Salcedo, CCGA
Vic Tolomeo, NASS
Kerry Dufraim, Ventura County

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m., a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Steve Patton explained that there is money in the reserve fund from a couple of years ago. Before the freeze, money was taken out of the fund and put into certificate of deposits (cd) to generate more interest than the savings account, and to ensure security.

Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick clarified that the money is currently in the fund, not cd's.

Mr. Kevin Severns suggested that the CCAC discuss the total amount of money to be deposited, and divide it up into several accounts to ensure it is Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured.

Ms. Susan Shelton stated that she explored FDIC insurance, and because it is such a low amount, it may not be what protects us. Ms. Shelton stated since talking to Accounting and Financial Services, accounts are required to have a bond with the state treasury that is 10 percent over what the deposit is. Ms. Shelton stated that she is double checking on this, and will explore the rates of different places.

Mr. Ron Matik stated that FDIC has raised their insurance rates to \$250,000. Ms. Shelton stated that in 2012, the rate will decrease to \$100,000.

MOTION: Mr. Severns moved to allow the State to explore the option of putting money into separate cd accounts for the purpose of this committee in the spring time. Mr. James Sherwood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: COUNTY ENFORCEMENT RESULTS

Counties that were present including: Tulare, Kern, Porterville, Fresno, Santa Clara, and Ventura reported their county enforcement results for October and November 2009.

Mr. Patton stated that there were freezing temperatures that showed damage in isolated spots and counties should be aware of where those spots are, as well as the impact to the industry. Mr. Patton stated counties should continue to follow protocol, send CDFR their temperature results when temperatures get too low, and hold fruit for at least three days before examining for damage.

Discussion ensued regarding freezing temperatures and the effect on the industry.

ITEM 4: REDUCING COUNTY HOURS FOR MATURITY SEASON

Mr. Patton suggested that counties continue to visit shippers and assess frost damage while acting at their own discretion.

MOTION: Mr. James Sherwood moved to encourage the counties to minimize their enforcement action, which regard to maturity, through December 2009, that maturity testing be terminated at this time as of December 31, 2009, and to be reassessed thereafter only as necessary, with the exception of Ventura, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Mr. Severns seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: NEXT MEETING

Mr. Patton stated there will possibly be another teleconference in January 2010, but the next meeting will be on March 23, 2010.

ITEM 6: ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by chairperson at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Patton, Branch Chief I
Compliance Unit
Inspection Services