



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)**

**December 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Teleconference**

2399 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95833

MEMBERS PRESENT

John S. Gless
Gustavo Carranza
Tom Mayhew
Lisa Tate
Sonya Carrillo
David Haas Jr.
Maribel Nenna – Vice Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

George McEwen
Brad Bishel – Chair

INTERESTED PARTIES

Eddy Greynolds – Kern Co.
Tesfaye Jimma – Tulare Co.
Tyler Pereira – Tulare Co.
Tom Tucker – Tulare Co.
Christopher Greer – Tulare Co.
Sofia Hernandez – Fresno Co.
Rudy Valencia – Riverside Co.
Tim Fritch – Ventura Co.
Korinne Bell – Ventura Co.
Gary Keough – National Agricultural
Statistics Service (NASS)
Curt Stock – NASS
Kelly Albelo - NASS
Shawn Clark – NASS
Brenda Hill – NASS
Casey Creamer – CA Citrus Mutual (CCM)
Micheal Bliss – CCM
Randy Stucky – Bee Sweet Citrus

CDFA

Stacey Hughes
Sarah Cardoni
Anna Carrasquillo
Andrea Todd
Kevin Jenkins

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Maribel Nenna, Vice Chair.

ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Sarah Cardoni, a quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 4: COUNTY ORANGE MATURITY PROGRESS REPORTS

County agricultural staff provided their Orange Maturity Progress Reports.

Tyler Pereira provided the update for Tulare County. Of the 1,564 orange maturity inspections completed to date, there were eight failed cursory tests and two rejections for the California Standard Scale. One rejection was reported at the November 16th meeting. On November 18th, the other rejection was tested by size and scores were Size 48 at 86.5%, Size 88 at 85.7%, Size 113 at 81.0%, Size 138 at 77.8%, and Size 163 at 67.7%.

Eddy Greynolds provided the update for Kern County. Since the November 16th meeting, 453 lots were inspected with no rejections and only 17 tests with scores in the 90s. On December 2nd, Fukumotos from Fresno County tested at 90.2% and Fukumotos from Kern County had scores of 91.2%, 97.3%, and 99.5%.

Sofia Hernandez provided the update for Fresno County. Since the November 16th meeting, 475 lots were inspected with seven official tests performed. On December 2nd, there was one rejection on Fukumotos from Fresno County for failing the California Standard Scale with a score of 82.4%. Color has been an issue.

John Beall provided the update for Ventura County. There are two packinghouses receiving navel oranges from Tulare County with the first lots being received on October 23rd. There have been no official tests, 13 cursory tests for soluble solids, 13 cursory tests for color, and no rejections.

Rudy Valencia provided the update for Riverside County. The county began receiving fruit on November 16th with all fruit passing cursory tests and no rejections. Local growers are reporting a late season with harvesting expected in late December or early January.

A period of discussion pertaining to orange maturity testing results ensued and a consensus was reached to end the mandatory orange maturity testing program in two weeks.

MOTION: John S. Gless moved to stop mandatory maturity testing on December 19, 2023, allowing counties discretion to test if needed, and allowing Southern California counties to test their local fruit through the end of December. Gustavo Carranza seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

i. Clementine Field Evaluation Results

Gary Keough, NASS Pacific Region Director, opened the floor to questions on the Clementine Objective Measurement (OM) Feasibility Study. Vice Chair Nenna directed the committee to authorize NASS to perform the Clementine OM Survey and determine the sample size, not authorize the survey, or revisit for the 2025/26 season.

Gustavo Carranza asked for clarification of whether the clementine study is solely for the Tango and Murcott varieties and does not include the early clementine variety and questioned how acreage is determined. Keough responded that this would be only for the early clementine variety and that the California Mandarin OM Report for Tango and Murcott varieties has already been authorized. Acreage estimates are derived from NASS acreage estimates and the sampling frame comes from the results of the California Citrus Acreage Report that is done every two years.

Lisa Tate recommended revisiting for the 2025/26 season and requested more information on the value of the information to industry.

Sonya Carrillo recommended proceeding with choosing a sample size. Previous discussions brought concerns of how the tight sampling window due to the size of the fruit at that time would affect the accuracy of the forecast. Also of concern was the concentration of work that must occur in July for NASS staff. After discussing these concerns with respective industry members, the consensus was that having the information would help the entities in the bidding process. One option is to extend the previously requested August 15th publish date into early September. Having an industry report that shared that information would help California effectively market its clementine crop.

Kelly Albelo urged the committee to keep in mind that there is a three-year period for data collection before the forecast is published.

David Haas Jr. stated there is value in the forecast and recommended authorizing the survey so a report could be published soon. Gless and Vice Chair Nenna agreed.

Carranza expressed that the early clementine estimate is not as critical as the Tango and Murcott forecast and recommended holding off until next year when there is consensus that information is needed by industry.

Gless recommended moving forward with the survey with a 280-fruit sample size as it would be the most accurate.

Vice Chair Nenna asked if the sample size could be later adjusted and if that would impact the publication date. Keough responded that the sample size can be adjusted as it is done often to coincide with the change in bearing acreage. However, increasing the sample size would incur costs for locating additional sample trees. Keough confirmed that it would have no effect on the report release.

Stacey Hughes stated that this committee annually decides the appropriate assessment rate for each commodity. Currently, the assessments that are collected are slightly below expenditures; thus, it is likely the committee would need to adjust the mandarin assessment rate if moving forward with the Clementine OM Survey.

MOTION: John S. Gless moved to authorize NASS to perform the Clementine Objective Measurement Survey with the 125-fruit sample size. Sonya Carrillo seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed by majority vote, with Lisa Tate and Gustavo Carranza opposing.

ii. Valencia OM Survey/Coefficient of Variation Data

Vice Chair Nenna shared that the options are to reduce the sample size and specify which sample size or to leave the current sample size at 375 with a cost of \$97,000, a \$6,000 increase from the current year.

MOTION: Lisa Tate moved to reduce the Valencia Objective Measurement Survey sample size from 375 to 330. Sonya Carrillo seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed by majority vote, with no abstentions.

ITEM 6: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and will be held at the University of California Cooperative Extension Kern County.

ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. by Vice Chair Nenna.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacey Hughes, Agriculture Program Supervisor II
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services