



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
February 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brett Kirkpatrick, Chairman
Gus Gunderson, Vice Chair
Etienne Rabe
James Sherwood
Franco Bernardi
Keeley Bramer
Mark Golden
David Hines
John Gless

INTERESTED PARTIES

Gavin Iacono, Tulare County
Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County
Manuel Villicana, Kern County
Jennifer Stilwill, Kern County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Fred Rinder, Fresno County
Carol Hafner, Fresno County
Ron Bray, Riverside County
Kerry Dufrain, Ventura County
Michelle Thom, Santa Clara County
Bob Salcedo, CA Citrus Growers Assoc.

CDFA

Steve Patton
Susan Shelton
Andrew Valero
Stacey Hughes
Brian Cote
Sarah Cardoni

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ron Matik
Seth Wollenman
John Eliot, Jr.

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick, Chairperson. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: REVIEW OF FEBRUARY FREEZE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Andrew Valero provided an overview of the Freeze Assessment Summary. The summary was based on 100 combined county samples of pre-graded citrus for the period of February 1, 2012, through February 10, 2012. Counties that participated in the assessment were Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, and Ventura.

Mr. Valero stated that the assessment concluded the following: of the 2,149 navel oranges that were sampled, 185 (9%) showed scorable damage and 189 (9%) showed evident damage; of the 1,090 mandarins that were sampled, 62 (6%) showed scorable damage and 86 (8%) showed evident damage; and of the 396 lemons that were sampled, 3 (1%) showed scorable damage and 8 (2%) showed evident damage. There were two disposal orders issued and there were no non-compliances issued. Mr. Valero stated that there could be more non-compliances and disposal orders that could have been issued in the time period between their sending in the reports and today's teleconference and asked the counties to provide that information.

Ms. Jennifer Stilwill stated that Kern County issued one disposal order for three bins of navel oranges. In addition, there was one non-compliance for navel oranges that was reconditioned and passed upon the second test.

Mr. Gavin Iacono stated that Tulare County had five non-compliances issued for navel oranges in January.

Ms. Scotti Walker stated that Fresno County had one disposal order for navel oranges. In addition, Fresno County had and one non-compliance for mandarins that was reconditioned and brought into compliance. Currently, there have been 18 non-compliances written for freeze damage that have been released. Furthermore, there have been 11 additional non-compliances that have not been resolved yet.

Ms. Kerry Dufrain stated that the first sample of navel oranges that was conducted for the freeze assessment in Ventura County was dumped to juice at the option of the packinghouse.

Mr. Ron Bray stated that Riverside County had no disposal orders or non-compliances.

The Committee discussed the Maturity Freeze Report 2011/12 Fiscal Year Citrus Inspection Monthly Activity Report/Invoice document. The report provided an overview of current county contract expenditures. County contracts were budgeted at \$554,179 dollars. The cumulative county expenditures as of January 31, 2012, are \$454,053 dollars. That cumulative figure does not include January's expenditures for both Tulare and Fresno counties. Mr. Iacono stated that Tulare County expended \$44,195 dollars for January.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that it appeared that there is freeze damage and that counties are near if not beyond their current county contract budgets. The County Contracts document outlined current county contracts, counties who are requesting additional funding for their current county contracts, and counties who are requesting additional funding to conduct freeze activities. Tulare County is the only county requesting additional funds for their current county contract. Fresno, Kern, Riverside, Santa Clara, and Tulare counties are requesting additional funds to conduct freeze activities. San Bernardino County is not requesting additional funds for freeze work due to the fact that they are only receiving Riverside County fruit. Ventura County is not requesting additional funds for freeze work because they have enough funds left in their current county contract in order to conduct freeze activities.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden motioned to approve the additional funds for county contracts in the amount of \$240,528.38 dollars for counties to conduct freeze activities on all citrus through April 30, 2012. Dr. Etienne Rabe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Golden motioned to approve the additional funds for Tulare County's existing contract in the amount of \$50,402.18 dollars. Mr. Gus Gunderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Patton clarified to counties that they have the ability to inspect fruit wherever they feel there may be freeze damaged fruit and not just at the packinghouses. Furthermore, counties from this point moving forward will not take samples from pre-graded fruit. Lastly, counties have the ability under regulation to take a second sample and after holding fruit for eight days can write a non-compliance based on that second sample.

Mr. Patton stated that the CDFA would begin a survey after the threat of the freeze is over and will declare a date A and date B based on that survey. CDFA will be working with counties to identify groves to conduct the survey on navel and Valencia's. In addition, CDFA will work with counties to identify Valencia groves to conduct pre-assessment work.

ITEM 3: LONG RANGE FREEZE ASSESSMENT (SUBCOMMITTEE)

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that the need for a long range freeze assessment subcommittee has come about because of concerns of how freeze determinations are made i.e. what triggers a freeze assessment, the work that is conducted during a freeze assessment, and what kind of work would be done in the future for non-major freeze events. Mr. Patton added that this subcommittee would come up with a protocol for non-major freeze events that would include CDFA's responsibilities to administer the program, define what the counties' responsibilities and time frames are, and what actions the Committee could take based on the freeze assessment.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Golden, and Ms. Marilyn Kinoshita volunteered to be members of the subcommittee. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that he would find a grower from industry to serve on the subcommittee as well.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments, but new business was discussed under this agenda item.

Dr. Etienne Rabe inquired how the Committee would go about quantifying data for a proposed regulation change for how freeze damage is scored on certain mandarin varieties such as the W. Murcott. Mr. Patton stated that an organization such as the Citrus Research Board would need to conduct research and collect data that would conclude that a change to the existing regulation was necessary for the reason that the current standard is not applicable. Once the research is conducted, it would be brought to the Committee for review and the Committee would then make a formal recommendation.

The Committee recommended to counties that when scoring mandarins, to make note when the bottom piece of the fruit has over 20 percent freeze damage and to provide that data to the Committee. The counties agreed that they would collect that data and report back their findings to the Committee.

ITEM 5: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the Tulare Agricultural Commissioner's Office on April 3, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ITEM 6: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. by Mr. Kirkpatrick, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Cardoni". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sarah Cardoni, Office Technician
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services