



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)  
March 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes  
4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gus Gunderson, Chairman  
Keeley Bramer, Vice Chair  
John Gless  
Scott Woods  
Michael Stark  
Curtis Holmes  
Mark Golden  
Curtis Holmes  
Seth Wollenman

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Gavin Iacono, Tulare County  
Scott Cornett, Tulare County  
Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County  
Steve Schweizer, Kings County  
Fred Rinder, Fresno County  
Jennifer Stilwell, Kern County  
Ron Bray, Riverside County  
Jim Sebesta, Sunkist  
Dave DeWalt, USDA NASS  
Jeff Olson, USDA NASS

**CDFA**

Steve Patton  
Stacey Hughes  
Sarah Cardoni  
Amanda Gilbert

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Al Bates  
David Hines

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Committee was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Gus Gunderson, Chairman. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the November 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the December 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Curtis Holmes moved to approve the December 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Scott Woods moved to approve the December 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes, as corrected. Mr. Michael Stark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the January 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. Scott Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Michael Stark moved to approve the February 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes, as corrected. Mr. Curtis Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 3: REVIEW OF COMMITTEE RULES AND PROCEDURES**

A review of the Committee procedures was conducted. It was determined that 2.6 Committee Action needed to be changed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mark Golden moved to change 2.6 Committee Action to 50% of the Committee members to constitute a quorum. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 4: FREEZE EXPENSE/INSPECTION UPDATE THROUGH FEBRUARY 2014**

#### a) Review of Approved County Amendments for March – Fresno and Tulare

Ms. Stacey Hughes provided an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/14 Citrus Agreement Expense Summary. For February, counties issued a total of 109 non-compliances and the total freeze expenditures were \$258,148.

Mr. Steve Patton provided an overview of the FY 2013/14 Citrus County Agreement Amendments Approved/Proposals. The Program has exhausted its freeze reserve and is operating on a limited funding basis. Going into the next FY, projected funds are \$197,459. Although the Program can utilize these funds this FY for freeze inspection activities, it is not advised, as these funds are merely projected revenue. The Program is suggesting reducing the current county amendment proposals to \$165,000 in order to leave a cushion in the event that the revenue does not reach what is expected. Options include limiting county freeze inspection activities and reaching out to the counties to see what other funding they have available.

Total freeze agreement amounts approved to date are \$1,221,454. Fresno County and Tulare County exhausted their original freeze amendment in February and had additional freeze agreements for March in the amount of \$200,478. Proposed funding for May and June is \$442,356 bringing the total proposed county agreements to \$1,911,163. The maximum funding available, which includes projected FY 2014/15 beginning balance of \$197,459, is \$1,666,266 and leaves the Program at -\$244,897.

Mr. Fred Rinder provided Fresno County's year to date and projected expenses. It is projected that the \$80,000 that was approved for March will be exhausted. The proposed amendment for April, May and June is \$176,120.

Mr. Gavin Iacono provided Tulare County's year to date and projected expenses. The proposed amendment for April, May and June is \$255,282. It is still not clear whether the county will expend more than the \$120,478 amendment for March. Multiple re-inspections of failing lots are a contributing factor to the increase in freeze inspection costs.

The reconditioning process of lots containing freeze damaged citrus was discussed. Regulatory action that included limiting the number of re-inspections allowed on an individual lot was discussed as a possible solution.

b) Review of County Amendment Proposals through June

The Committee reviewed the proposed county agreements and discussed funding and inspection level options.

Riverside County will continue with their inspections with or without the \$5,261 they had proposed for May and June.

Kern County will amend their previous agreement to free up money they will not be utilizing. Approximately \$78,000 would become available for other counties to use once the agreement is amended.

Santa Clara County would use proposed funding for retail and wholesale inspections at various venues.

Ventura County did not submit an additional amendment proposal as they have adequate funding remaining from original amendment to continue freeze inspections through June.

Options for allocating remaining funds to continue freeze inspections in Fresno and Tulare Counties through June were discussed. Fresno County and Tulare County will provide an update of possible supplement funding from other county sources at the next CCAC meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Scott Woods motioned to allow up to \$250,000 in funding for April, May, and June for freeze inspection activities. Allocation will be \$102,000 for Fresno County, \$148,000 for Tulare County, and no additional funding for Kern, Riverside, Ventura, and Santa Clara counties. Funding will be allocated with a percentage breakdown of 50% for April, 35% for May, and 15% for June. Mr. Mark Golden seconded the motion. Mr. Mark Golden requested that the motion be amended to reflect the funding allocation of 60% for April, 35% for May, and 5% for June. The motion was amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 5: FREEZE PROTOCOL SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Mark Golden provided an overview of the Freeze Protocol Subcommittee's work. The scope of the subcommittee is to ensure consistency during freeze events by designing a freeze protocol for counties to refer to that outlines triggers and responsibilities. The subcommittee will meet once more and plans to submit the freeze protocol for the Committee to review at the October meeting.

**ITEM 6: 2014/15 CITRUS COUNTY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

Ms. Hughes provided an overview of the FY 2014/15 Citrus County Cooperative Agreements. The proposed agreement amount of \$466,807 for FY 2014/15 remains the same as the previous year. Counties did request increases to their agreements, but based on the current fund condition, agreements remained unchanged from the prior year.

**ITEM 7: BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Ms. Hughes provided an overview of the FY 2014/15 Citrus Budget. There will be little revenue to start the maturity season. Assessments were increased to the maximum level allowed by statute. There is no other mechanism available to quickly increase the reserve to an adequate level by next season.

The Committee discussed expenditures that were outlined in the proposed budget.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mark Golden moved to recommend the CDFA Secretary approve the FY 2014/15 Citrus Program Proposed Budget, as revised. Mr. Curtis Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 8: AG STATISTICS**

Mr. Dave DeWalt, United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, provided an overview of the 2013/14 California Valencia Orange Objective Measurement Report.

**ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gunderson, Chairman, formed a subcommittee to explore the reconditioning issue. Members of the Reconditioning Subcommittee are Mr. Michael Stark, Mr. Curtis Holmes, and Mr. Mark Golden.

**ITEM 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be held via teleconference on April 29, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. Agenda items will include an expenditure update from the counties.

**ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a large 'H' and the word 'for' written in a cursive script.

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