



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
March 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gus Gunderson
David Hines
Seth Wollenman
John Gless
James Sherwood
Etienne Rabe
Keeley Bramer
John Eliot, Jr.
Mark Golden
Curtis Holmes

INTERESTED PARTIES

Gavin Iacono, Tulare County
Scott Cornett, Tulare County
Manuel Villicana, Kern County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Ron Bray, Riverside County

CDFA

Steve Patton
Stacey Hughes
Andrew Valero
Sarah Cardoni

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Gus Gunderson, Chairperson. Roll was called, introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the December 15, 2012 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. John Eliot seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Golden moved to approve the February 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS REPORT

Ms. Sarah Cardoni provided the Committee Vacancies and Terms report. Currently, there are two handler member vacancies on the Committee. Members whose terms will expire on September 30, 2013, and are eligible for reappointment are Mr. David Hines, Mr. Mark Golden, and Mr. Keeley Bramer. Dr. Etienne Rabe, Mr. James Sherwood, and Mr. John Eliot will term out on September 30, 2013.

ITEM 4: EXPENSE/FREEZE INSPECTION UPDATE

Ms. Stacey Hughes provided the Expense and Freeze Inspection update. All counties had recent amendments to their citrus county agreements in February for additional freeze inspections. As of February 28, counties expended \$295,253 on maturity testing. As of January 31, freeze inspection expenses totaled \$64,072.

Counties explained freeze work being conducted and the balances of their 2012/13 citrus county agreement. The Committee agreed that each county should maintain some level of freeze inspection based on what they feel is adequate for the type of freeze damage they are observing in their particular county, as different geographical areas are experiencing different types of freeze issues. Freeze inspections shall continue until the second week of April, at which point the Committee will discuss the need to continue.

ITEM 5: FY 2013/14 COUNTY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

Ms. Hughes provided an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/14 Citrus County Agreement Proposals. In light of recent amendments made to county agreements, a new standard has been set to determine the level of funding for each county agreement. To determine each county's agreement, the average of actual expenses for the months of November 2011 and November 2012 were taken, and added to that amount was an additional ten percent for freeze inspections. The county agreements include funding to operate a twelve week orange maturity inspection program, which usually runs mid October through mid December (January for Southern counties), and additional funding to perform initial citrus freeze inspections. The current county agreement proposals are reflective of these changes.

ITEM 6: BUDGET REVIEW

Ms. Hughes provided an overview of the FY 2013/14 Citrus Program Proposed Budget. Included in the proposed budget is \$467,615 for county agreements, \$280,000 for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service citrus acreage survey and crop reports, and \$25,050 for State Pro Rata. The total proposed budget for FY 2013/14 is \$772,665. The proposed ending balance is \$1,109,097, which is an adequate freeze reserve.

MOTION: Dr. Rabe moved to recommend the CDFA Secretary approve the FY 2013/14 Citrus Program Proposed Budget, as submitted. Mr. Eliot seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: SCORING FREEZE DAMAGE IN MANDARINS

This agenda item was not discussed.

ITEM 8: CALIFORNIA STANDARD SCALE REVIEW

Mr. Andrew Valero provided the California Standard Scale review. Because last year was such a low acidity year for navel oranges, there were counties that had maturity tests having fruit with such low acidity that the new California Standard Scale chart did not accommodate. Program staff met with USDA to discuss this issue and agreed upon was a solution of an adjusted chart. The proposed adjusted scale should be made available for next year.

ITEM 9: AG STATISTICS

This item was not discussed.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ITEM 11: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held via teleconference on April 17, at 1:00 p.m. Agenda items will include the continuance of freeze inspections.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gunderson, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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