



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
November 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Curtis Holmes
David Hines
Seth Wollenman
John Gless
Michael Stark
Mark Golden
Scott Woods
Al Bates

INTERESTED PARTIES

Scott Cornett, Tulare County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Ron Bray, Riverside County
Steve Schweser, Kings County
Lori Rodgers, Kern County
Dave DeWalt, USDA NASS
Victor Tolomeo, USDA NASS
Bob Blakely, CA Citrus Mutual

CDFA

Steve Patton
Stacey Hughes
Sarah Cardoni
Amanda Gilbert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gus Gunderson
Keeley Bramer

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Ms. Stacey Hughes. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Hughes opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

MOTION: Mr. Curtis Holmes moved to nominate Mr. Gus Gunderson to serve as Chairman. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Curtis Holmes moved to nominate Mr. Keeley Bramer to serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Scott Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

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, 2014, and are eligible for reappointment are Mr. John Gless, Mr. Seth Wollenman, Mr. Curtis Holmes, and Mr. Gus Gunderson.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Mark Golden moved to approve the March 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes, as corrected. Mr. Seth Wollenman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. David Hines moved to approve the March 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: AG STATISTICS

Mr. Victor Tolomeo from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), provided the Ag Statistics Report. NASS provides agricultural statistic surveys to the Committee, which includes the objective measurement survey for navels in September and the Valencia's in March. They also provide an acreage survey every other year in July, and the quarterly forecast throughout the year.

ITEM 7: STATE REPORTS

A. 2012/13 County Expense Summary for Maturity and Freeze

Ms. Hughes provided an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012/13 Citrus County Agreement Proposals. County agreements totaled \$560,831. Five counties needed additional funding in order to perform freeze inspections bringing the total county agreements for last season up to \$881,911. Maturity expenses totaled \$297,144 and freeze expenses totaled \$324,897, bringing the total expenses to \$622,041 for last year's inspection program.

B. 2012/13 Summary of Crop Year Revenue

Ms. Hughes provided an overview of the FY 2012/13 Crop Year Revenue Summary. Citrus revenue received for the period of July 2012 to June 2013 was \$701,416. The Bank of America account balance as of July 1, 2013 was \$1,092,781. The Citrus balance in the Ag Fund as of July 1, 2013 was \$250,187.

ITEM 8: PROGRESS REPORT FROM COUNTIES ON 2013/14 MATURITY INSPECTION PROGRAM

Maturity Inspection Program progress reports were provided by Fresno, Kern, Tulare, Riverside, Kings, and Santa Clara counties. Based on the information the counties provided the Maturity Inspection Program will continue through mid January for the Southern California counties.

ITEM 9: CALIFORNIA STANDARD SCALE REVISED BY USDA-ARS AND UC COOPERATIVE EXTENTION

USDA has modified the California Standard Scale. During last years navel season some counties encountered lots of oranges that had very low acid content and as a result the maturity table at that time did not allow for that. The modified version starts at 15 and was provided to packinghouses and counties.

ITEM 10: LATE FEES ON CITRUS ASSESSMENTS

After a review of the statutory language outlining when fees are due for the Citrus, Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), and Standardization programs, it was determined that the Department was incorrectly collecting the late fees for Citrus and ACP programs. Standardization assessments are due thirty days after the end of the month. The ACP Program's assessments are due at the tenth of the following month. The current billing procedure of collecting assessments for all three programs together will discontinue and the Department will be billing these programs separately. The statutory language outlining late fees for the Citrus and ACP Programs may be changed to mirror the Standardization Program.

ITEM 11: COUNTIES WITH ORANGE PACKING FACILITIES NOT LISTED IN SECTION 48002 OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CODE

Legislative language may need to be changed to expand to counties who have packing facilities for navel oranges but cannot receive funding because statutes specify only nine counties. Counties not listed are not under the mandatory Maturity Inspection Program and cannot receive funding for freeze work.

ITEM 12: EXPERIMENTAL CONTAINER AND PACK PERMIT REQUIREMENTS – CURRENT CITRUS PERMITS ISSUED

Last year the Citrus program has issued 35 experimental container and pack permits. Currently, there is 24 valid permits, 11 of those permits have expired and the Department has received only two renewal requests. Regulations specify the amount of product that can be shipped under a permit and provide a time limitation of three years that a permit can be used. The regulatory process can take up to nine months or more so industry is urged to petition for standardization of a experimental container or pack in the second year of permit use.

ITEM 13: FREEZE PROTOCOL

The Freeze Protocol Subcommittee drafted a freeze protocol. A meeting will be scheduled so that the protocol can be finalized.

ITEM 14: NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ITEM 15: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held via teleconference on December 5, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. Agenda items will include the continuance of the Maturity Inspection Program.

ITEM 16: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stacey Hughes", followed by the word "for" written in a similar cursive style.

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