



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)
November 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

George McEwen

INTERESTED PARTIES

Monica Winters – San Diego Co.
Eddy Greynolds – Kern Co.
Christopher Greer – Tulare Co.
Nicole Motley – Tulare Co.
Tesfaye Jimma – Tulare Co.
Tom Tucker – Tulare Co.
Nina Zlatkov – Los Angeles Co.
John Beall – Ventura Co.
Ed Williams – Ventura Co.
Mario Gutierrez – Kings Co.
Misael Martinez – Riverside Co.
Melissa Cregan – Fresno Co.
Amanda Zito – Fresno Co.
Sofia Hernandez – Fresno Co.
Jeffery Klitz – Fresno Co.
Brenda Hill – National Agricultural
Statistics Service (NASS)
Kelly Albelo – National Agricultural
Statistics Service (NASS)
Casey Creamer – CA Citrus Mutual
Abby Peltzer – CA Citrus Mutual
Sam Botkin – CA Citrus Growers
Assoc.

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Stacey Hughes
Karrie Batchelor
Anna Carrasquillo
Sarah Cardoni

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Karrie Batchelor.

ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Sarah Cardoni. A quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Batchelor opened the floor to nominations for Chair.

MOTION: Maribel Nenna nominated Brad Bishel for the office of Chair. Gustavo Carranza seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Batchelor opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: Brad Bishel nominated Maribel Nenna for the office of Vice Chair. Lisa Tate seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 5: REVIEW OF MARCH 15, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Bishel requested a motion to approve the March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

MOTION: Gustavo Carranza moved to approve the March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Chair Brad Bishel seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with Lisa Tate abstaining.

ITEM 6: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Cardoni provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. There are currently two producer member vacancies: one representing navel or Valencia; and one representing mandarin. Members whose terms will expire September 30, 2023, and are eligible for reappointment are Gustavo Carranza, Chair Brad Bishel, Tom Mayhew, Sonya Carrillo, David Haas Jr., Vice Chair Maribel Nenna, and George McEwen.

ITEM 7: FUND CONDITION UPDATE

Batchelor presented the Fund Condition Update. As of June 30, 2022, the Beginning Fund Balance was \$2,300,743. Projected Revenue for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 is \$433,527 for a total of \$2,734,270 in available resources. Projected Expenditures for FY 2022/23 are \$866,827, with a Cash Adjustment of \$41,809 and a Gas Tax credit of \$10,000, for a projected Ending Balance of \$1,835,634.

ITEM 8: ORANGE MATURITY INSPECTION SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The Orange Maturity Inspection Subcommittee did not meet; therefore, there were no updates to report.

Chair Bishel tabled the Orange Maturity Inspection Subcommittee until county testing data is reviewed at the next committee meeting.

ITEM 9: AG STATISTICS

Brenda Hill of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provided an overview of reports by NASS, including the 2021-22 California Valencia Orange Objective Measurement (OM) Report and the 2022-23 California Navel Orange OM Report. Forecasted were 17.2 million cartons for Valencia and 76 million cartons for navel oranges.

NASS plans to provide a preliminary production forecast for the Mandarin OM Survey in 2023. Three years of data have been collected and models are currently being tested. Sampling included Tango and Murcott Mandarin varieties on five-year non-bearing trees. Sampling methodology concerns have arisen as three non-bearing years for all mandarin varieties have been published for other reports, such as the Citrus Acreage Report. Sizing data has been missed if it is three-year non-bearing.

The committee confirmed that it is three-year non-bearing and discussion ensued regarding changing the sampling scheme. Methodologies for gathering sizing data should be consistent and if including three-year non-bearing trees, an additional three years of data may need to be collected to provide an adequate forecast. It was agreed that methodologies should remain consistent with sampling five-year non-bearing trees in order to produce the Mandarin OM Survey in 2023. NASS stated they will consult with headquarters to determine if including the three-year nonbearing trees will impact publishing future forecasts.

ITEM 10: COUNTY ORANGE MATURITY PROGRESS REPORTS

County agricultural staff provided their Orange Maturity Progress Reports.

Eddy Greynolds provided the update for Kern County. The first test was conducted on October 10th and all six packinghouses in Kern County are operating. Kern County inspected 120 lots in the field, 160 lots at packing facilities, and an additional 72 lots of sized fruit at a packing facility. Color has been the main issue but has improved. There were no rejections.

Tesfaye Jimma provided the update for Tulare County. Twenty-five packinghouses are operating in Tulare County. From October 11th through November 12th, 855 orange maturity tests were conducted of which 92.9% tested above 100 with no rejections to report.

Jeffery Klitz provided the update for Fresno County. Testing began on October 12th with 13 packinghouses operating in Fresno County. One disposal order was issued after the lot failed an official test with a score of 89.2. It later passed with a score of 93.9. Three lots failed cursory tests with each passing the official test. Overall, color has been good.

Mario Gutierrez provided the update for Kings County. There is one packinghouse in operation. All cursory inspections have tested above 90. There are no issues to report.

John Beall provided the update for Ventura County. Inspections began on October 19th with two packinghouses in operation. All fruit received is from Kern County. There are no issues with maturity with scores ranging from 125.9 to 131.7. There have been no rejections.

Misael Martinez provided the update for Riverside County. There are no issues with color or maturity and average tests have scored over 130.

Monica Winters provided the update for San Diego County. San Diego has not received any loads of fruit yet.

Batchelor asked the committee for input on when to discontinue mandatory orange maturity testing. A period of discussion pertaining to orange maturity testing results ensued and a consensus was reached that the mandatory orange maturity testing program was no longer warranted.

MOTION: John Gless moved to stop mandatory maturity testing on December 5, 2022, allowing counties discretion to test if needed, and allowing Southern California counties to test their local fruit through the end of December. Maribel Nenna seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 11: PROGRAM UPDATES

Batchelor reported that a few industry members have recently inquired about the process to pack oranges in a nonstandard container, noting there may be some experimental container permits issued in the near future.

ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and will be held at the University of California Cooperative Extension Kern County.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. by Chair Bishel.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karrie Batchelor, Agriculture Program Supervisor I
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services