



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STDZ)
October 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes
Coalinga, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Johnston, Chair
John Eliot, Jr.
Kerry Whitson
Louis Pandol
Marco DiMare
Ruben Arroyo
S. Garrett Patricio

INTERESTED PARTIES

Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Fred Rinder
Dennis Bray
Steve Schweizer

CDFA

Mario Cortez
Susan Shelton
Maria Hicks
Andrew Valero
Steve Patton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Frank Nunes
Mark Perez

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Mr. Dennis Johnston, Chairperson. Roll was called and a quorum was established. Self introductions were made; the committee welcomed Mr. S. Garrett Patricio, as a new committee member. Mr. Marco DiMare arrived at 10:17 a.m.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Steve Patton opened the floor for nominations. Mr. John Eliot nominated Mr. Johnston as Chairperson and Mr. Mark Perez as Vice Chairperson. The committee voted; the nominations passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Ms. Maria Hicks provided the committee with a brief description of vacancies and terms stating that there is currently one fresh fruit member vacancy, one fresh vegetable member vacancy, two other vegetable member vacancies, one other commodity vacancy.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MARCH 30, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Louis Pandol moved to approve the March 30, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Eliot seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: STATE REPORTS

A. Budget Update (Attachment B)

Mr. Patton reported that the fund condition is pretty healthy at this time. Mr. Patton stated that the reserve is going to decrease slightly due to extra expenditures, including a new database. Mr. Patton informed the committee that approximately \$250,000 will be necessary to start the database project.

B. Regulation Update

Mr. Patton stated that there are currently no new Standardization (STDZ) regulations. Mr. Patton stated that the Certified Farmers' Market Program (CFM) and the State Organic Program (SOP) have regulations that are being promulgated. The SOP regulations will be finalized on November 5, 2010. The SOP regulations will, among other items, enable spot inspections to be conducted. The STDZ Program is affected because STDZ inspectors are currently cross-training to conduct inspections for the SOP and the CFM. Spot inspections will be the beginning focus for the inspectors that are currently cross-training with the SOP and the CFM Program. The STDZ inspectors will submit an exception time report so the correct program will be charged for their work.

C. Audit Update

Mr. Patton stated that five audits have been conducted, and the results have been received on two of the audits. The audits were performed on handlers to ensure that they were paying the correct assessments. Mr. Patton stated that on one audit, a tomato handler had not reported having grape tomatoes, and owed the state approximately \$515. There was also an ongoing citrus audit from last year; they owed the state approximately \$5000. Mr. Patton stated that the audits are working; it is a good use of resources. The Market Enforcement Program increased their audit fees from \$600 to \$1000 per audit. Mr. Patton stated that \$5000 yearly is sufficient at this time.

D. Enforcement Update

Mr. Patton reported that CDFA bases the Compliance Report on information that is received from the counties. Mr. Patton iterated that certain counties send in their notices of noncompliance on a more routine basis than others. Mr. Patton provided the committee with an overview of the enforcement activity.

ITEM 6: COUNTY ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

Several counties provided the committee with enforcement reports including current issues, the quantity and quality of inspected fruit, penalties that are being assessed, and labeling issues. Discussion ensued as to why several counties are not assessing civil penalties. Mr. Patton stated that this issue should be addressed through CACASA. Mr. Arroyo stated that he will add it to the CACASA agenda.

ITEM 7: CITRUS ASSESSMENT CHANGE

Mr. Patton stated that the California Citrus Advisory Committee (CCAC) changed the methodology used for assessment purposes. The STDZ and Citrus Program have always been assessed on a per container shipped basis. Previously, citrus commodities were shipped in containers that averaged approximately 40 pounds. Mr. Patton stated that over the past five or six years, the market has driven new packaging that was as small as five pounds per container. To remain consistent, the Citrus Program will now be assessed on total weight delivered for packing divided by 40 pounds, not on containers shipped.

Mr. Patton informed the committee that the Citrus Pest and Prevention Program decided to do their assessments by total weight delivered for packing divided by 40 pounds as well. It was asked if the STDZ Program would be interested in changing to the new assessment method as well. The committee discussed the change and decided that at this time, they are not interested in changing the way the Standardization Program is paying assessments.

ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Arroyo will be assisting the Department on the database project. Ms. Susan Shelton stated that once the database is implemented, it will be a helpful tool to the committee, the counties, and the industry; the new Standardization online assessment system will be incorporated into that as well. It is hoped that the project will be completed by the middle of next year.

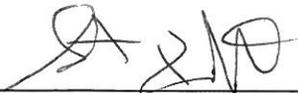
ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING

Mr. Patton will contact the committee in January or February to set a firm date for the next meeting.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. by Mr. Johnston, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by:



Steve Patton, Compliance Chief
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services