



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION (SPI) ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes  
1001 South Mount Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93307**

**Members Present**

Louis Pandol  
Mark Reasons  
Blaine Carian

**Members Absent**

Maria Alvarado

**CDFA Representatives**

Steve Patton  
Kevin Batchelor  
Marcee Yount  
Roxann Bramlage  
Danielle Chapman  
Sarah Cardoni

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mr. Louis Pandol, Chairman. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and self-introductions were made.

**ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**MOTION:** Mr. Mark Reasons moved to elect Mr. Louis Pandol as Chairman. Mr. Blaine Carian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mark Reasons moved to elect Mr. Blaine Carian as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Louis Pandol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MAY 29, 2013 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Mr. Mark Reasons moved to approve the meeting minutes for May 29, 2013, as submitted. Mr. Blaine Carian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS UPDATE**

Currently there are six voting member vacancies that consist of five members who are shippers of fruit and vegetables and one public member who is a resident of this state and not a producer, shipper, or a processor. Additionally, there are nine alternate non-voting member vacancies. Members whose terms will expire on December 31, 2014, and are eligible for reappointment are Mr. Louis Pandol and Ms. Maria Alvarado.

**ITEM 5: SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE**

There have been personnel changes due to staff retirements. Mr. Kevin Batchelor was recently appointed as the Branch Chief of the Inspection and Food Safety Unit. Staff

that retired were: Mr. Steven Thomas; Mr. Ed Page; Mr. Ed Brown; Mr. Bruce Teramoto; and Mr. Randy Pritchard.

**ITEM 6: COMMODITY PROGRAMS UPDATE**

Mr. Batchelor provided the commodity reports for almonds, pistachios, and table grapes. The data is a combined total for 2012 and 2013.

For almond exports, there were 52,000 certificates written and 318,342,637 pounds certified. Expectations for 2014 are that there will be an increase as more export markets open up around the world. There is some concern for shrinkage of the almond size. For almond incoming, there were 13,082 certificates written and 3,226,830,577 pounds certified. Expectations for 2014 are that this year's estimate of approximately two billion pounds could be less due to the drought.

There is a new Almond Sampling Verification Program. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) feels that industry should not be able to submit samples to SPI for inspections without additional oversight. The Almond Board of California and USDA have accepted this new program. SPI will soon provide industry training for the sampling program.

For pistachios, both exports and the domestic federal marketing order, there were 2,732 certificates written and 412,518,398 pounds certified. Expectations for 2014 are that the crop will be down from last year due to the drought. Some pistachio acreage has been pulled out.

For table grapes, there were 6,090 certificates written for domestic field inspections, and 32,198 certificates written for export. Total pounds certified were 940,230,705. Expectations for 2014 are that there will be a good crop again this year and exports should also increase. The crop will be three weeks early and sugar and bunch sizes are good. The Shafter District will start inspections next week.

Ag Canada has ceased requiring inspection on onions through the United States. If successful, it may lead to the elimination of required inspections for apples and potatoes as well. There has been a decrease in inspections being performed on onions. However, most of the handlers are still taking inspection.

Ms. Marcee Yount provided reports for fresh cherries, kiwifruit, oranges, tangerines, tomatoes, pears, processed pears, peaches, and grapes.

Cherries had 486 inspections, and brought in revenue of \$287,578. There are a few sheds that are still running at this time. They are estimating 2.5 million packages for this year's crop. A normal year will have 7-8 million packages. There were 1679 inspections last year, in a normal year there are 100% inspections in the Lodi District.

This year some sheds did not take inspections. At that point, the Standardization Program will regulate to enforce the minimum maturity standards in the California Food and Agricultural Code.

Kiwifruit had 890 inspections, and brought in revenue of \$225,961. Oranges had 495 inspections, and brought in revenue of \$126,838. Tangerines had 171 inspections, and brought in revenue of \$12,449. Lastly, tomatoes had 3,323 inspections, and brought in revenue of \$649,863.

Fresh pears had 132 inspections, and brought in revenue of \$41,516. The California Pear Advisory Board suspended the inspection portion of their marketing order. However, there were some facilities that still took inspections.

For cling peaches, 400,241 tons were inspected, bringing in revenue of \$374,323. Inspections started yesterday in the Kingsburg and Hanford area. For processed grapes, 13,245 tons were inspected, bringing in revenue of \$13,809. Lastly, for processed pears, 168,359 tons were inspected, bringing in revenue of \$126,906.

#### **ITEM 7: FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATE**

Ms. Roxann Bramlage provided the food safety program update. There were 1259 audits conducted. The breakdown of audits for the various food safety programs were as follows: 542 for the Leafy Green Marketing Agreement; 79 for the California Tomato Farmers; 52 for the California Cantaloupe Advisory Board; 509 for the Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP); 15 for the USDA Tomato; and 62 for the USDA Produce GAP Harmonized.

The Program is continuing to pursue the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accreditation. An audit representative from ANSI will soon be conducting an audit on the desktop portion of the program. Subsequently the audit for the field portion of it will be conducted and they will shadow our auditors to ensure we are auditing to the ISO-65 standards.

Part of the focus for the last year has been meeting industry's request to be able to provide third party food safety audits. While the Program continues to pursue accreditation through ANSI, in order to shorten the time frame and provide these auditing services much faster to industry, the Program has contracted with British Standards Institution (BSI), which is a certifying body. BSI has provided training and the Program is currently in the process of getting the final sign offs so that auditors can start providing some of the higher end audits.

**ITEM 8: BUDGET APPROVAL**

For the previous two years the budget has been based on a 10% fee reduction. The suggestion is to continue the 10% fee reduction in order to lower the reserves. This year the Program had additional expenditures related to the ANSI accreditation.

**MOTION:** Mr. Blaine Carian moved to approve the 2014/15 Proposed Budget as submitted, and to approve the one-year fee reduction for Fiscal Year 2014/15. Mr. Mark Reasons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**ITEM 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

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

The next meeting will be in May, 2015 and will be held in Bakersfield. Agenda items will include commodity reports and the approval of the program budget.

**ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Pandol, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Kevin Batchelor, Program Supervisor  
Inspection and Compliance Branch  
Inspection Services