



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPI)
April 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Louis Pandol – Chair
Christine Ivory
Patrick Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

CDFA

Steve Patton
Kevin Batchelor
Laurel Rudolph
Mitch Randhawa
Mitchell King
Theresa Stewart
Greg Dake

INTERESTED PARTIES

Alexander Wladyszewski –
United States Department of
Agriculture (USDA)
Jimmy Leggett – USDA
Sabrina Thomas – California
Agricultural Support Services
(CASS)
Nell Lerma (CASS)
Ian LeMay – California Fresh
Fruit Association (CFFA)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Louis Pandol, Chair at 10:04 a.m. Introductions were made. Roll was called by Mitchell King and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF PROPOSED FY 2020/21 BUDGET

Kevin Batchelor presented the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/21 Budget. The total for Personal Services is \$1,475,833, with the Operating Expenses and Equipment totaling \$13,770,632, Departmental expenses totaling \$1,717,261, and a \$200,000 Gas Tax adjustment for a Total Program Budget of \$16,763,726. Steve Patton explained that the proposed \$16,763,726 is the maximum that the Program is allowed. Patton noted that in previous years the Program has not spent the entirety of their proposed budget.

There was discussion between the committee, Patton, Batchelor, Greg Dake, and Theresa Stewart regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This included discussion of the potential impact on the Program as well as various impacts on the agricultural

industry. Patton explained that CDFA has written procedures and information for employees as well as members of industry and made these available for the public.

Batchelor noted that the Tomato Suspension Agreement will lead to an increase in border crossings at Otay Mesa through the fall of 2020 and increased staffing costs for inspections at the Otay Mesa border station. Batchelor also described the impacts of the use of reserve funds dedicated to SPI, emphasizing that the State's transition to the Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal) has created difficulties in accurately tracking expenses. Batchelor stated that SPI was currently utilizing reserves to cover increasing CASS costs related to increases to minimum wage and increased workloads. Batchelor suggested that the Committee consider increasing fees related to inspections, recommending a rate of \$46 per hour to help mitigate the use of reserve funds. Both Batchelor and Patton explained that this fee change was accounted for in the Proposed Budget and would be implemented if the budget was approved as presented.

MOTION: Christine Ivory moved to approve the Proposed FY 2020/21 Budget as presented. Patrick Smith seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

A doodle poll will be sent to the committee to determine the date of the next meeting.

ITEM 5: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. by Chair Pandol.

Respectfully submitted by:



Kevin Batchelor, Program Supervisor
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services