



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STDZ)
October 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marko Zaninovich –
Vice Chair
Louis Pandol – Chair
David Silva
Jeff Simonian
Scott Deardorff
Ed Williams

INTERESTED PARTIES

Adam Borchard, CA Fresh Fruit Assoc.
Cathy Roache - Alameda Co.
Jeff Klitz - Fresno Co.
Julian Lopez - Imperial Co.
Eddy Greynolds - Kern Co.
Mario Gutierrez – Kings Co.
Nina Zlatkov - Los Angeles Co.
Carrie Mitchell – Merced Co.
Graham Huntington – Monterey Co.
Misael Martinez – Riverside Co.
Arnold Johnson - San Bernardino Co.
Monica Winters - San Diego Co.
Omar Luna – San Joaquin Co.
Melissa Lovett - Stanislaus Co.
Tom Tucker - Tulare Co.
Nicole Motley - Tulare Co.
John Beall - Ventura Co.

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Stacey Hughes
Karrie Batchelor
Anna Carrasquillo
Sarah Cardoni
Kevin Jenkins
Jonathan Tran
Andrea Todd

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Stacey Hughes.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

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

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Hughes opened the floor to nominations for Chair.

MOTION: David Silva nominated Louis Pandol for Chair. Marko Zaninovich seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Hughes opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: Jeff Simonian nominated Marko Zaninovich for Vice Chair. David Silva 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 10, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Louis Pandol requested a motion to approve the March 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes, as submitted.

MOTION: Marko Zaninovich moved to approve the March 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes as submitted. David Silva seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 6: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Cardoni provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. Current vacancies include: one fresh fruit member; one other fresh fruit member; four fresh vegetable members; one other fresh vegetable member; and one member representing other commodities subject to Standardization assessments. Cardoni also provided the names of members who will be eligible for reappointment as of September 1, 2023.

ITEM 7: FUND CONDITION UPDATE

Hughes provided the Fund Condition Update. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22, the beginning fund balance was \$1,336,331. Total revenue was \$2,232,859, and available cash was \$3,569,190. Total expenditures were \$1,955,983. There were cash adjustments of \$194,863, bringing the total ending balance to \$1,418,344. Hughes noted the significant increase in interest revenue as interest rates increased from 0.277% in 2021 to 0.654% in 2022, causing an increase in the reserve balance as well. Cash adjustments were higher than the approved amount due to a portion of the previous two years charges for the pension repayment hitting as a lump sum in FY 2021/22.

Chair Pandol asked when the last assessment rate increase took effect. Hughes responded that new assessment rates began July 1, 2021, and is reflected in the FY 2021/22 Fund Condition Report.

ITEM 8: FY 2021/22 COUNTY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS

Hughes and County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) staff in attendance presented the FY 2021/22 County Enforcement Activity Reports.

Alameda County inspected 10,740 lots, 121,680 containers, and did not issue any Notices of Noncompliance's (NNCs) or reject any containers.

Fresno County inspected 2,088 lots, 290,927 containers, issued nine NNCs, and rejected 1,382 containers.

Imperial County inspected 108 lots, 19,634 containers, issued nine NNCs, and rejected 1,640 containers.

Kern County inspected 1,255 lots, 500,921 containers, issued 19 NNCs, and rejected 5,203 containers.

Kings County inspected 607 lots, 65,710 containers, and did not issue any NNCs or reject any containers.

Los Angeles County inspected 17,297 lots, 1,838,635 containers, issued 383 NNCs, and rejected 56,550 containers. Los Angeles County also issued 142 Administrative Penalties.

Merced County inspected 60 lots, 18,479 containers, and did not issue any NNCs or reject any containers.

Monterey County inspected 244 lots, 308,176 containers, and did not issue any NNCs or reject any containers.

Riverside County inspected 34,747 lots, 7,938,552 containers, issued 140 NNCs, and rejected 27,023 containers. Riverside County also issued three Administrative Penalties.

San Bernardino County inspected 9,631 lots, 21,196 containers, issued 10 NNCs, and rejected 1,523 containers.

San Diego County inspected 4,476 lots, 539,088 containers, issued 19 NNCs, and rejected 5,991 containers. San Diego County also issued one Administrative Penalty.

San Francisco County inspected 56 lots, 15,738 containers, issued five NNCs, and rejected 466 containers.

San Joaquin County inspected 482 lots, 39,252 containers, issued 27 NNCs, and rejected 1,664 containers.

San Mateo County inspected 35,569 lots, 2,567,372 containers, issued 46 NNCs, and rejected 3,160 containers.

Stanislaus County inspected 397 lots, 192,094 containers, and did not issue any NNCs or reject any containers.

Tulare County inspected 1,766 lots, 1,221,307 containers, issued nine NNCs, and rejected 2,803 containers.

Ventura County inspected 1,735 lots, 104,765 containers, issued 19 NNCs, and rejected 755 containers.

Yolo County inspected 48 lots, 86,452 containers, and did not issue any NNCs or reject any containers.

Hughes noted that three counties received additional funding for this current fiscal year and anticipates additional funding to be requested for FY 2023/24. All additional funding requests must be received by November 30th and include an explanation of how the funds will be utilized.

Hughes asked for feedback on whether counties should return to conducting routine retail inspections. In the past, county enforcement efforts focused on produce traceability, substandard quality issues, and proof of ownership at retail operations such as popup roadside stands and mobile fruit vendors. Additional funding was provided to counties and compliance efforts were successful. Hughes added that if there's interest in resuming retail inspection activities, counties would use current agreement funds. Several members and CAC staff voiced their support to resume routine retail inspections.

ITEM 9: COUNTY WHOLESALER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION UPDATE

Ed Williams provided the County Wholesaler Registration Legislation Update. Currently, the \$250 wholesale registration fee includes the restriction that it only applies to counties that have a population of more than six million. Proposed is the removal of that restriction to allow counties throughout the state to issue the fee. Also proposed is the removal of the clause that prohibits counties to generate more than one third of their county costs for this program through those fees, which is a barrier for most counties. Additionally, CACASA recommended the fee be increased to \$500.

Williams reported that moving forward, the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association will co-sponsor the legislation. Steve Patton added that the Department reached out to industry for support and will continue to work with industry to find an additional co-sponsor.

ITEM 10: PROGRAM UPDATES

Hughes reported that Assembly Bill (AB) 1825 amending the Food and Agricultural Code Section 43571. Fruit, Nut, and Vegetable Standards: Out-of-State Processing was approved by the Governor and will take effect January 2023. Existing law exempted the shipment of melons and vegetables in field bins out of the state and into any adjoining state, up to 25 miles beyond the border. The bill removed the 25-mile limitation and now allows for movement of product to a destination regardless of distance from the border.

Hughes also reported that AB 719 pertaining to bee management and honey production was approved by the Governor and will take effect January 2023. Williams gave further detail on AB 719 and specified that there is now a provision for administrative civil penalties for honey violations. However, there is no provision for funding to conduct the enforcement work.

Marcee Yount announced that a legislative concept has been put forth to remove the sunset clause outlined in FAC Code Section 42815 that would make the Standardization Program continuous. Currently, the sunset clause requires the Department to go through the legislative process every five years in order to extend the Program statutes. Yount requested feedback from members on changing the statute to make the Standardization Program laws indefinite.

Hughes provided a history of Standardization Program's joint effort with industry to renew legislation on a five-year basis. Given the age of the program and the lengthy legislative process required to renew the program every five years, there is industry support to repeal the sunset clause. Members were asked to reach out to their industry associates to gauge their interest in removing the sunset clause and to provide their recommendation at the next meeting.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, and will be a hybrid meeting held at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and via Zoom.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m. by Chair Pandol.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacey Hughes, Program Supervisor
Standardization Program