



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STDZ)  
February 7, 2012 Meeting Minutes  
Coalinga, CA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mark Perez, Chair  
Dennis Johnston, Vice Chair  
Christopher Crivelli  
Ruben Arroyo  
S. Garrett Patricio  
Louis Pandol

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Scotti Walker, Fresno County  
Fred Rinder, Fresno County  
Dennis Bray, Alameda County  
Rafael Garcia, Tulare County  
Rich Ordonez, Monterey County

**CDFA**

Steve Patton  
Susan Shelton  
Andrew Valero  
Mario Cortez  
Stacey Hughes  
Sarah Cardoni

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Eric Lauritzen  
John Eliot, Jr.

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL**

The Committee was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Mark Perez, Chairperson. Roll was called, introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS**

Ms. Sarah Cardoni provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. Member vacancies include one fresh fruit member, one other fresh fruit member, three fresh vegetable members, and two other vegetable members. Members who will be up for reappointment on September 1, 2012, are Mr. Garrett Patricio, Mr. Ruben Arroyo, and Mr. Eric Lauritzen.

**ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 25, 2011 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Mr. Dennis Johnston motioned and Mr. Patricio seconded to approve the October 25, 2011 Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 4: FUND CONDITION**

Mr. Patton provided the Fund Condition Report. He stated that the Program three years ago brought in approximately \$1.4 million dollars and has since increased revenue each year. Revenue for this fiscal year (FY) is projected to be around \$1.7 to \$1.8 million dollars, which has established a healthy reserve level. For the FY 2012/13 budget, the Program is proposing an increase in personnel expenditures because there is a need to fill the northern district supervisor vacancy. In addition, the Program is proposing that county funding will be increased if possible, although that may occur in FY 2013/14.

## **ITEM 5: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### a) Improved Education

Mr. Patton stated that the Subcommittee tasked with utilizing Standardization Program funding looked at several areas of the Standardization Program and the biggest component that came out of the discussion was that the Standardization Program needed to do a better job of outreach for counties. More specifically, make sure all counties have access to CDFA training sessions. He stated that there are a number of counties that currently do not have access to these types of trainings. An idea is that CDFA can conduct regional trainings after the first of this next FY in five county area groups that have been identified. Funding would be made available to all counties, including counties that do not have contracts with the Program, to cover costs associated with sending personnel to the training session.

### b) Additional County Participation

Mr. Patton stated that San Diego, Sutter, Ventura, San Francisco, and Tulare counties have expressed interest to receive county funding to conduct Standardization Program activities.

### c) Funding Realignment

Mr. Patton stated that existing funding would need to be utilized during FY 2012/13 to cover funding additional counties. There will be a review of funding in FY 2013/14, and if changes to cover those additional counties are necessary, they will be made accordingly.

Mr. Patton discussed the Contract Realignment Scenarios document. Scenarios outlined were: 15% reduction to all county contracts; 25% reduction to all county contracts; 50% reduction to Fresno County contract only; and 40% reduction to the Fresno County contract and 10% reduction to all other counties. Discussion ensued regarding the different levels of county contract reductions and how the reductions would affect current enforcement activities of those counties.

**MOTION:** Mr. Johnston motioned to realign funding by making a 15% reduction to all county contracts. Mr. Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### d) New Application Process

Mr. Patton stated that a new application process would need to be implemented. The Subcommittee created a draft application that has four sections for the county to complete. Those sections are: 1) County Information; 2) Proposed County Activity; 3) Justification; and 4) Budget. Below the Proposed County Funding section there is a box for the county to check if they do not want to receive county funding for enforcement activities, but would attend the CDFA training session. Mr. Patton stated that CDFA is changing its contract process to a grant process, which will make it easier to provide various funding to counties in a timely manner.

Mr. Fred Rinder, Fresno County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, stated that a good question to ask the county is how much of their net county costs were used to perform those standardization activities they outlined in their justification. Mr. Patton stated that the Program originally began supplementing those counties that had existing programs in place conducting standardization activities and that a similar process could be used to determine funding eligibility and level.

Mr. Patton stated that the application could ask counties what their current funding is for Standardization Program activities. In addition, the Program could send a separate letter out to all counties stating when and where county trainings will occur and that funding will be provided to all counties to cover associated costs.

Mr. Arroyo stated that counties should not be excluded if they have not done any standardization work in the past few years. Budget cuts have forced many counties to cut back in activities. Another factor to consider is that a county may have a recent need for standardization work that would not have funding history to reflect that need.

Mr. Patton stated that the application would be amended to remove the training section which will be sent out to counties separately. The application will only be provided to those counties that seek interest with CDFA for funding. Furthermore, there will be an additional section for counties to provide previous funding exhausted conducting standardization work. The Committee agreed that three to five years of funding history would be a good time frame to make a determination of funding needed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Patricio motioned to approve the application form with the change of the 'interested in funding for enforcement activities' going onto a separate form for those counties not involved in the Standardization Program and to add a line item for current standardization activities that are currently being performed. Mr. Johnston seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM 6: CITRUS REGULATION UPDATE**

Mr. Patton provided the Citrus Regulation Update. He stated that the regulation proposal to change the table on maturity standard to the California Standard, which is a maturity standard exclusively for navels, went out six weeks ago for another 15-day public comment period. Additional public comments were received, CDFA has responded to those comments, and the regulation package is now under review at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). OAL has the options to approve it, disapprove it, or return to CDFA for changes.

#### **ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Patton stated that industry should be discussing food safety with their respective commodity groups in regard to what could be done utilizing the Standardization Program laws to enhance food safety efforts. He stated that the food safety issue of the

reusing of containers could be solved with regulation changes. In addition, enhanced labeling could allow for further trace back for food safety purposes.

Mr. Johnston expressed that the State needed to make clear to industry what food safety audits were required by industry. Mr. Patton replied that the Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Moderation Act will give clear understanding as to what is going to be required of industry.

**ITEM 8: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at Harris Ranch Inn on Tuesday, March 13, 2012.

**ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m. by Mr. Perez, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Susan Shelton, Agriculture Program Supervisor I  
Inspection and Compliance Branch  
Inspection Services