



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STDZ)
March 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina St., Tulare, CA 93274**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Derek Vaughn
Garrett Patricio
Ruben Arroyo

INTERESTED PARTIES

Steve Schweizer, Kings County
Katherine Takata, L.A. County
Fred Rinder, Fresno County
Jennifer Stilwill, Kern County
Ron Bray, Riverside County
Gavin Iacono, Tulare County
Steve Logan, Stanislaus County
Graham Hunting, Monterey
County

CDFA

Steve Patton
Stacey Hughes
Andrea Todd
Karrie Batchelor
Laurel Rudolph

MEMBERS ABSENT

Louis Pandol

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Mr. Garrett Patricio, Chairperson. Roll was called, introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS UPDATE

Ms. Laurel Rudolph discussed the committee vacancies. The current vacancies include: two fresh fruit members from oranges, table grapes, and other citrus fruit, and their alternates; one other fresh fruit member, and their alternates; four fresh vegetable members from broccoli, tomatoes, and/or lettuce, and their alternates; two other fresh vegetable members, and their alternates; and one from any commodity, and their alternate.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 7, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Derek Vaughn moved to approve the October 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Ruben Arroyo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

ITEM 4: FY 2015/16 COUNTY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

Ms. Stacey Hughes discussed the county agreements. A recent review of the current county agreements was done to ensure that the standardization program funding was used in a manner that best serves the industries that support the program. As a result of the review, adjustments to some of the agreements were made.

The total proposed county cooperative agreement amount for the 2015/16 Fiscal Year (FY) is \$1,038,590, which is an increase of \$41,754 from the current 2014/15 FY.

County representatives in attendance reported on current enforcement activities and their proposed 2015/16 FY cooperative agreement work plans. Ms. Hughes also pointed out that San Diego County's proposed agreement included a significant funding increase. She went on to say that San Diego County issued over 66 violation notices and five administrative fines under their first year's agreement and continue to identify numerous locations handling and selling various commodities as a result of their enforcement efforts and activities.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM BUDGET

a. FY 2014/15 Fund Condition

The 2014/15 FY, Fund Condition was discussed. As of January 31, 2014, the beginning fund balance was \$3,335,058, with the total revenue being \$1,164,920. The total expenditures for the 2014/15 FY were \$1,100,835, with an ending balance of \$3,339,143.

b. FY 2015/16 Proposed Budget

The 2015/16 FY Proposed Budget was discussed. The total proposed program cost for the 2015/16 FY is \$2,284,722. The proposed expenditures for the 2015/16 FY are: \$569,496 for personal services; \$1,277,940 for operations and equipment; and \$437,286 for overhead costs.

The projected revenue for the 2015/16 FY is \$1,752,000. The proposed budget does provide for a potential reduction to the programs current reserve.

MOTION: Mr. Garrett Patricio, motioned to pass the proposed 2015/16 FY budget. Mr. Derek Vaughn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

ITEM 6: PROGRAM AND REGULATORY UPDATE

Ms. Hughes discussed current program and regulatory updates. She discussed the current inspections being performed at the Port of Los Angeles by county and state staff. In spite of the longshoreman strike, inspections of imported grapes have continued and a total of 52 notices of violations for mislabeling and immature grapes had been issued to date.

Several labeling concerns were identified during last year's table grape season in the Central Valley. The primary issues were varietal name labeling, mainly the abbreviation of the variety, and the use of the trademark name in place of the variety name. County and state personnel worked with the table grape industry to assist with the labeling issues. A detailed letter, along with a list of recognized table grape varieties was sent

out to industry explaining the labeling requirements for table grapes. Response to this letter from the industry and container manufacturers has been very positive. Several table grape varieties have been added to the table grape varietal list maintained by the program as a result.

Amendments to the existing Cherry regulations became effective on March 17, 2015. Regulation amendments included changing the labeling requirement from the previous use of the term "Unknown Variety" to "Sweet Cherries" and increasing the minimum size requirements. The main reason for the changes is to align California requirements with the Northwestern requirements for cherries, allowing the industry equitable marketing opportunities.

ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hughes spoke about the commodity trainings on the CDFA website. The site has over 25 different trainings available, along with the licensing program associated with the presentations.

ITEM 8: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held in October 6, 2015, in Fresno, CA.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. by Mr. Patricio, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by:



Stacey Hughes, Program Supervisor
Standardization Program