



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STDZ)**

**October 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes  
1730 S. Maple Ave. Fresno, CA 93702**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Derek Vaughn  
Louis Pandol  
Garrett Patricio  
Ruben Arroyo  
David Silva

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Graham Hunting, Monterey Co.  
Rob Milner, Monterey Co.  
Judith Arroyo, San Joaquin Co.  
Ruben Arroyo, Kern Co.  
Steve Schweizer, Kings Co.  
Scott Cornett, Tulare Co.  
Scotti Walker, Fresno Co.  
Fred Rinder, Fresno Co.  
Mikelia Kelley, T&A Produce Co.  
Ian LeMay, CA Fresh Fruit Assoc.

**CDFFA**

Steve Patton  
Stacey Hughes  
Karrie Batchelor  
Marcee Yount  
Laurel Rudolph

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tom Casas

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL**

The Committee was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Mr. Louis Pandol, Vice Chairperson. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS:**

Mr. Pandol asked that everyone introduce themselves.

**ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

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

Ms. Laurel Rudolph provided an overview of Committee vacancies. Member vacancies include: one fresh fruit member representing oranges, other fresh fruit, or table grapes; one other fresh fruit member representing any fresh fruit commodity subject to standardization assessments; three fresh vegetable members representing broccoli, lettuce, or tomatoes; and two other fresh vegetable members who represent any fresh vegetable commodity subject to standardization assessments; and one other commodity member representing any commodity subject to standardization. Members whose term ends August 31, 2016, and are eligible for reappointment to the Committee are Mr. Garrett Patricio.

### **ITEM 5: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Steve Patton opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**MOTION:** Mr. Derek Vaughn nominated Mr. Louis Pandol to serve as Chairman. Mr. David Silva seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

**MOTION:** Mr. Louis Pandol moved to nominate Garrett Patricio as Vice-chair. Mr. Derek Vaughn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

### **ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

It was noted that Item 1 in the March meeting minutes should read that the meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. not 11:07 a.m.

**MOTION:** Mr. Derek Vaughn moved to approve the March 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes as amended. Mr. David Silva seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

### **ITEM 7: STATE REPORTS/UPDATES**

#### a. Fund Condition

Ms. Stacey Hughes provided an overview of the program's fund condition. As of August 31, 2015, the beginning fund balance was \$3,142,940, the total revenue was \$385,224 and total expenditures were \$406,816. The ending fund balance as of August 31, 2015 was \$3,121,348.

#### b. Program Update

Ms. Hughes provided a program update. Program staff provided county training sessions this past year for head-lettuce, table grapes, cherries, cantaloupes, water melons, honeydew melons, and other melons.

The annual citrus training sessions were well attended at both the southern and the central locations.

Many Counties continue to utilize the online training courses. This year there were fourteen counties that participated in the trainings, and ninety-three inspectors were issued seasonal commodity licenses.

At the start of 2015, the Standardization program staff and Riverside County staff performed inspections on Chilean Table Grapes, at the port of Los Angeles. The staff inspected 297 lots, and 3,926,000 containers. They wrote 65 non-compliance notices; 57 for labeling violations, and 8 for maturity.

Ms. Hughes also shared information regarding the Standardization enforcement inspections performed at the Otay Mesa border crossing by the Shipping Point Inspection (SPI) program. Last year SPI wrote 100 noncompliance notices, on 21 different imported commodities. Of those noncompliances: 68 were for markings; 21 for quality; 3 for re-use of containers; and 8 for mislabeling.

An update on the Standardization database was given. Due to some unforeseen circumstances there has been a delay in the implementation of the database. Even so, the assessment reporting part of the database should be running by Spring 2016.

### c. Regulation Updates

Ms. Hughes provided the regulation update. Amendments to the existing cherry regulations became effective 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.

The Citrus industry filed a petition in the spring of 2015, to modify existing regulations that pertain to containers and counts for oranges and grapefruit. These changes modified two existing standard Reusable Plastic Containers (RPCs) and created one new standard RPC, only to be used for oranges. The new RPCs also establish new packing sizes. These new regulation changes became effective September 30, 2015.

Ms. Hughes went on to discuss the mandarin experimental permits. A few mandarin packers have been experimenting with new containers and non-standard sizes. These containers are primarily used for export. The container sizes being experimented with are comparable to European sizes.

Mr. Steve Patton mentioned that the avocado industry may be making some regulatory changes. He also mentioned the recent administrative changes made to the avocado exemption permit that are now more in line with the statute.

Mr. Patton also discussed the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). On October 31, 2015, the FSMA rules will be released. The rules are expected to establish standards for growing, harvesting, packing, and holding produce on domestic and foreign farms.

The FDA has asked multiple State Departments to help implement the new rules. The FDA and CDFA will work together to implement the rules with the resources available. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is advocating to implement the foreign safety rule in conjunction with the produce safety rules. The foreign safety rule assures handlers that imported produce is verified to the same safety rules that domestic produce is.

California is currently in the process of implementing a California Good Agricultural Practices Audit (CGAP), based on the FSMA rule. This Audit will be voluntary.

**ITEM 8: FISCAL YEAR 2014/15 COUNTY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS**

County personnel in attendance reported the following:

Mr. Graham Hunting provided the report for Monterey County. In the 2014/15 Fiscal Year (FY) they inspected 937 lots and 563,993 containers, with 17 noncompliances and 9,329 containers rejected. The increase of noncompliances is due to the wide use of the produce traceability initiative stickers, which failed to include the required identity and quality statements.

Mr. Steve Schweizer provided the report for Kings County. Last year they inspected 330 lots and 107,850 containers, with 2 noncompliances, and 222 containers rejected.

Mr. Scott Cornett provided the report for Tulare County. Last year they inspected 3,038 lots and 586,276 containers, with 5 noncompliances and 524 containers rejected. The majority of noncompliances came from mislabeling on cherry containers.

Mr. Ruben Arroyo provided the report for Kern County. Last year they inspected 815 lots and 527,009 containers, with 8 noncompliances and 2,312 containers rejected, due to maturity. They also inspected 13 roadside stands and one swap meet. One roadside stand was cited due to lack of receipts.

Mr. Fred Rinder provided the report for Fresno County. Last year they inspected 6,814 lots and 3,800,424 containers last year, with 21 noncompliances and 3,408 containers rejected. He also discussed inspections that took place at various roadside stands with a task force that included Fresno County Sheriff's Office, OSHA, and Environmental Health.

Ms. Judith Arroyo provided the report for San Joaquin County. Last year they inspected 3,770 lots and 28,531 containers, with 23 noncompliances and 1,846 rejected containers. The majority of the commodities inspected were cherries. They were also able to inspect other commodities such as cantaloupes and honeydews with the use of seasonal staff.

Those counties who were not in attendance reported the following:

Alameda County inspected 25,159 lots and 85,159 containers last year, with 12 noncompliances and 363 containers rejected.

Los Angeles County inspected 3,379 lots and 280,435 containers last year, with 415 noncompliances and 46,238 containers rejected.

Merced County inspected 113 lots and 31,994 containers last year, with 9 noncompliances and 2,126 containers rejected.

Placer County inspected 10 lots and 40 containers last year, with 8 noncompliances and 29 containers rejected.

Riverside County inspected 8,219 lots and 6,850,592 containers, with 257 noncompliances and 159,021 containers rejected.

San Bernardino County inspected 5,517 lots and 1,450,746 containers last year, with 3 noncompliances and 254 containers rejected.

San Diego County inspected 196 lots and 24,537 containers last year, with 61 noncompliances and 2,070 containers rejected.

San Francisco County inspected 359 lots and 19,412 containers last year, with 10 noncompliances and 870 containers rejected.

San Mateo County inspected 63,808 lots and 2,800,587 containers last year, with 246 noncompliances and 16,602 containers rejected.

Stanislaus County inspected 3,954 lots and 161,763 containers last year, with 9 noncompliances and 65 containers rejected.

Sutter County inspected 429 lots and 1,916 containers last year, with 8 noncompliances and 94 containers rejected.

Ventura County inspected 2,655 lots and 138,041 containers last year, with 3 noncompliances and 590 containers rejected.

Yolo County inspected 528 lots and 343,162 containers last year, with 10 noncompliances and 3,458 containers rejected.

#### **ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Patton discussed the new medicinal marijuana bills. In October, 2015 the Governor signed three different bills that will help regulate the existing Medical Marijuana industry. To comply with the new laws, CDFA will create a new branch under the Division of Inspections Services. Currently \$10 million has been allocated for implementing and enforcement of the new law; some of that funding will go to other state agencies as well. In the long term state license fees from Medical Cannabis Cultivation will also help fund the new branch.

#### **ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be will be February 18th in Monterey County at 10:00 am.

#### **ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 pm. by Mr. Pandol.

Respectfully submitted by:



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Stacey Hughes, Program Supervisor  
Standardization Program