



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)  
November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes  
Teleconference**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

John S. Gless – Chair  
Gustavo Carranza – Vice  
Chair  
Brad Bishel  
Tom Mayhew  
George McEwen  
Maribel Nenna  
Sonya Carrillo  
David Haas Jr

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Amanda Zito – Fresno County  
Jeffery Klitz – Fresno County  
Eddy Greynolds – Kern County  
Monica Winters – San Diego  
County  
Tesfaye Jimma –Tulare County  
Monica Winters – San Diego  
County  
Greta Varien – Ventura County  
Scott Woods  
Jose Ruiz

**CDFA**

Steve Patton  
Marcee Yount  
Stacey Hughes  
Karrie Batchelor  
Anna Carrasquillo  
Andrea Todd  
Thomas Osborn  
Victoria Hornbaker  
Kevin Jenkins

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None.

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Karrie Batchelor.

**ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL**

Roll was called by Thomas Osborn. A quorum was established, and introductions were made.

**ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Batchelor opened the floor to nominations for Chair.

**MOTION:** Brad Bishel nominated John Gless for the office of Chair. Maribel Nenna seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Batchelor opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

**MOTION:** Maribel Nenna nominated Gustavo Carranza for the office of Vice Chair. Brad Bishel 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 4, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Gless requested a motion to approve the March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

**MOTION:** Tom Mayhew moved to approve the March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Brad Bishel seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

### **ITEM 6: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT**

Osborn provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. There are currently four Producer member vacancies: one of lemons from Ventura County; one of navels and valencias from Tulare County; one of lemons from any county; and one of mandarins from any county. Osborn went on to provide the names of members who will be eligible for reappointment as of September 30, 2022.

### **ITEM 7: FUND CONDITION UPDATE**

Batchelor presented the Fund Condition Update. As of June 30, 2021, the Beginning Fund Balance was \$2,647,564. Projected Revenue for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 is \$463,036 for a total of \$3,110,600 in available resources. Projected Expenditures for FY 2021/22 are \$945,309, with a Cash Adjustment of \$36,219 and a Gas Tax credit of \$13,700, for a projected Ending Balance of \$2,142,772.

### **ITEM 8: SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

Batchelor provided those in attendance with an overview of the Citrus Counties Monthly Activity and Expense Summary for the 2020-21 Season. Batchelor explained that the CCAC provides recommendations and oversight to the California Citrus Program, which maintains cooperative agreements with five counties. These counties consist of Fresno, Kern, Riverside, Tulare, and Ventura Counties.

Batchelor went on to share that the CCAC voted to create a Subcommittee in March of 2020, for the purpose of better understanding each counties' orange maturity inspection program and invoicing procedures. The Subcommittee has since met with County Agricultural Commissioners and their staff, as well as state personnel and identified several differences in how each county administers their orange maturity inspection programs.

First, it was determined that most counties utilize shared staffing, while a few counties use dedicated staff to perform orange maturity testing. All counties use some permanent staff, while a few also utilize seasonal staff. Additionally, one county utilizes mobile presses to conduct field orange maturity testing at the beginning of the navel orange harvest, whereas other counties only perform orange maturity testing at the packing facilities. County workloads, number and locations of packing facilities, and the amount of oranges received within each county were also discussed as well as the differences in each of the counties Board of Supervisors administration of their respective program budgets.

Bishel stated that overall, the subcommittee is satisfied with the level of orange maturity testing currently performed by the counties. Scott Woods concurred but added that the subcommittee did identify some areas where efficiencies could be increased and stated that it would be beneficial for the Subcommittee to continue to meet and review county maturity programs.

Batchelor went on to explain that the original county cooperative agreement amounts were based on the premise of a 12-week orange maturity testing program. However, since orange maturity testing requirements had transitioned to the California Standard Scale, the testing season has consistently ended within a shorter timeframe. Batchelor also noted inconsistencies between Southern California counties' performing orange maturity inspections on local produced navel oranges and requested input from the committee. Chair Gless and Nenna stated that maturity testing on Southern produced navels through the end of December would be appropriate.

Nenna requested clarification on the number of rejections reported in Southern California. Stacey Hughes responded that there have not been any rejections for maturity on Southern California produced navel oranges within the past 21 years. Hughes also explained that fruit is still subject to inspection, even after the point at which mandatory maturity inspections performed by the counties are discontinued. Counties will continue to have the flexibility to conduct maturity inspections as needed.

Hughes went on to explain that the FY 2022/23 County Agreement amounts will be very similar to what was approved for FY 2021/22. Bishel stated that given the impacts of adopting the California Standard and the ability of the California Citrus Program to spend additional money in the event of an emergency, the CCAC should consider reductions to the County Agreements for FY 2022/23 or 2023/24.

After a period of discussion, it was determined that the Subcommittee will meet in advance of the CCAC's Spring budget meeting.

### **ITEM 9: COUNTY ORANGE MATURITY PROGRESS REPORTS**

County agricultural staff provided their Orange Maturity Progress Reports.

Jeffery Klitz provided the update for Fresno County. Klitz stated that one lot was held for failing the first official maturity test and then passed the second official test. Most tests have been over 100.

Tesfaye Jimma provided the update for Tulare County. Tulare County conducted 272 maturity tests in October, with no tests scoring less than 90. In November, Tulare conducted 458 maturity tests, with no tests below 90.

Eddy Greynolds provided the update for Kern County. Kern County had no rejections since beginning their maturity testing in October. Kern County also reported the varieties of oranges being harvested. Kern County inspected 409 lots, with 193 inspections conducted in the field with mobile presses. There have been no tests below 90.

Greta Varien provided the update for Ventura County. There have not been any issues with color or maturity. All fruit has been coming in from Kern County. There have not been any rejections.

Anna Carrasquillo provided the update for Riverside County. There have not been any issues with color or maturity.

Monica Winters provided the update for San Diego County. San Diego has not received any loads of fruit yet.

Batchelor then asked the committee for input on when to discontinue mandatory orange maturity testing and informed the committee that a follow up meeting could be held in early December if they felt additional time was needed. Discussion ensued, and the committee members decided to reconvene the meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to further discuss orange maturity testing.

**MOTION:** Brad Bishel moved to reconvene the meeting at 10:00 AM on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Chair Gless seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

#### **ITEM 10: PROGRAM UPDATES**

Steve Patton provided Program Updates. Patton informed those in attendance that a new Undersecretary, Christine Birdsong, has been appointed. An Environmental Program Manager has also been hired to oversee the Produce Safety Program, which is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Produce Safety Rule. Patton went on to state that the OCal Program joined the Inspection and Compliance Branch as of July 1, 2021.

Hughes noted that there are currently vacant positions representing citrus commodities on the CDFA Standardization Advisory Committee, and encouraged individuals interested in serving on this committee to apply.

Batchelor thanked Woods and Mike Stark, who recently termed-out from their positions on the CCAC after serving the maximum four consecutive terms, for their dedicated service to the committee. Batchelor noted that Woods and Stark had each received a Resolution, signed by CDFA Secretary Karen Ross.

#### **ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS**

The meeting will reconvene on December 7, 2021, at 10:00 AM, via Zoom.

The Spring meeting will be held March 15, 2022, at 10:00 AM.

The March 15, 2022 meeting agenda will include a Subcommittee update.

#### **DECEMBER 7, 2021**

The meeting reconvened on December 7, 2021, at 10:00 AM.

Roll was called by Osborn, and a quorum was established.

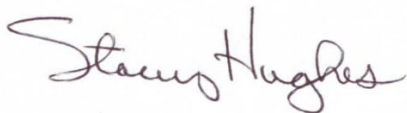
A period of discussion pertaining to orange maturity testing results ensued, a consensus was reached with county staff and CCAC members that a mandatory orange maturity testing program was no longer warranted.

**MOTION:** Brad Bishel moved to stop mandatory maturity testing on December 7, 2021, allowing counties discretion to test if needed, and allowing Southern California counties to test their local fruit through the end of December. Chair Gless seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

**ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM on December 7, 2021 by Chair Gless.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karrie Batchelor".

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For  
Karrie Batchelor, Agriculture Program Supervisor I  
Inspection and Compliance Branch  
Inspection Services