



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)**

**July 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes
4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gus Gunderson, Chairman
Keeley Bramer, Vice Chair
John Gless
Mark Golden
Al Bates
David Hines

INTERESTED PARTIES

Gavin Iacono, Tulare County
Scotti Walker, Fresno County
Steve Schweizer, Kings County
Manuel Villicana, Kern County

CDFA

Steve Patton
Stacey Hughes
Sarah Cardoni

MEMBERS ABSENT

Seth Wollenman
Scott Woods
Curtis Holmes
Michael Stark

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Mr. Gus Gunderson, Chairman. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Al Bates moved to approve the April 29, 2014 Meeting Minutes, as amended. Mr. John Gless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Ms. Sarah Cardoni provided the Committee Vacancies and Terms report. Currently, there are two handler member vacancies on the Committee. Members whose terms will expire on September 30, 2014, and are eligible for reappointment are Mr. John Gless, Mr. Seth Wollenman, Mr. Curtis Holmes, and Mr. Gus Gunderson.

ITEM 4: FY 2013/14 FINAL COUNTY EXPENSE AND FREEZE INSPECTION REPORTS

Ms. Stacey Hughes provided an overview of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/14 Final County Expense and Freeze Inspection reports to the Committee.

Fresno County expended \$418,893 of which \$341,805 was for freeze inspections, leaving \$92,998 remaining on their cooperative agreement.

Kern County expended \$226,533 of which \$171,330 was freeze inspections, leaving \$22,034 remaining on their cooperative agreement. The \$80,000 for March that they gave back to the Program is reflected in that amount.

Riverside County expended \$31,170 of which \$16,000 was for freeze inspections. Their cooperative agreement was exhausted in May, but they continued freeze inspections through June.

Santa Clara County expended \$10,513 of which \$6,066 was for freeze inspections. They discontinued freeze inspections as of May.

Tulare County only reported through May. An estimate of June expenses is that they will not exceed \$13,000 for freeze inspections. Approximately \$98,000 will remain on their cooperative agreement. Total expenditures for freeze inspections will be approximately \$565,000.

Ventura County expended \$84,738 of which \$82,000 was for freeze inspections. Their cooperative agreement was exhausted in May, but they continued freeze inspections through June. They expended \$17,244 in May and \$4,037 in June for freeze inspections. However, they were only reimbursed \$5,000.

Approximately \$208,000 remains on county cooperative agreements.

ITEM 5: CITRUS FUND CONDITION

The Citrus Program Fund Condition as of June 30, 2014 does not include June's assessments because there is a four to six week lag until those funds are in the bank. Total expenditures were \$1.4 million spent on orange maturity and freeze inspection work. Estimated starting resources are \$63,000 for this FY. The Program expects to receive in the next three months \$118,000 in revenue, leaving \$389,000 to start the next season in October.

As of October 1, 2014, assessments will be at their maximum level. \$1.2 to \$1.5 million dollars has been the target reserve level. Discussion ensued regarding raising the estimated amount necessary for reserve. Maturity inspection work is approximately \$350,000. It would take one to one and a half years without a freeze event to reach \$1.5 million dollar resource.

ITEM 6: NEW CITRUS ASSESSMENT RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2014

The new assessment rates begin October 1, 2014, and are set at their maximum level allowed by statute. The maximum assessment rates are set by statute and would require a legislative change to increase above that level.

The Standardization Program, which the Citrus Program is a part of, is moving forward with a database that will include the ability to accept online payments by credit card.

Counties will also be able to input information to the State using the database. There may be additional charges that come along with credit card features.

The Program does not receive direct funding for administering Citrus inspection and freeze activity; however, it is currently expending a great amount of resources on the Program. Mr. Patton discussed laying out various options to address this issue at a later meeting. Mr. Mark Golden stated that Committee needs to continue to utilize the Department and that a change needs to occur.

ITEM 7: REPORT FROM FREEZE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Golden provided a report from the Freeze Subcommittee. Provided to the Committee was the finalized Citrus Freeze Protocol to be used as a guideline for the CDFA and the counties to utilize during a freeze event.

ITEM 8: REPORT FROM REGULATORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Gless provided a report from the Regulatory Subcommittee. The re-inspection process must be looked at from the initial inspection, re-inspection, final inspection, to the disposal order. The problem this year was multiple inspections on the same lots, with some lots being inspected five or six times. This method of inspection exhausted all resources. The goal of the Freeze Inspection Program is to identify potential problems. This needs to be addressed in regulation with details such as time frames needed between initial and final inspections. Currently there is no time frame for disposal orders. Disposal orders are used to control lots of failing fruit until they are properly disposed of. Sending oranges that fail to meet quality standards to a juicing facility is a common final disposition. If juice plants are backed up, a time frame set in regulation could be an issue. The Committee agreed that one week with three inspections was sufficient and questioned if disposal orders should be defined.

The Committee will poll industry members to see what type of time frame is needed for initial to final inspections and the period of time needed for disposal orders.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION ONLY

There was no new business discussed.

ITEM 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

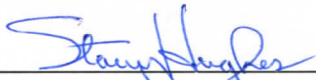
ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next CCAC meeting will be held October 28, 2014, in Kern County at 10:00 a.m. Agenda items will include the inspection and disposal order time frames discussion.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Stacey Hughes, Agriculture Program Supervisor II
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services