



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION (SPI) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Teleconference
2399 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95833**

REMOTE MEMBERS

PRESENT

Louis Pandol - Chair
Patrick Smith
Trent Voss
Christine Ivory
Raj Samran

INTERESTED PARTIES

None

CDFA

Kristi Garcia
Andrea Cano
Theresa Stewart
Mitch Randhawa
Kevin Batchelor
Roxann Bramlage
Laurel Rudolph
Carla Sanchez
Natalie Krout-
Greenberg
Marcee Yount
Mitch Randhawa

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Kevin Batchelor.

ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Kristi Garcia, and a quorum was established.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 4: REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

- i. Review of May 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Chair Louis Pandol requested a motion to approve the May 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION: Trent Voss moved to approve the May 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented. Patrick Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions. Christine Ivory was not present.

- i. Review of June 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Chair Pandol requested a motion to approve the June 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION: Patrick Smith moved to approve the June 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented. Trent Voss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions. Christine Ivory was not present.

ITEM 5: COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE FEE INCREASE DISCUSSION

Kevin Batchelor explained that Cooperative Agricultural Support Services Authority (CASS) requested an increase from the current eight percent to 10 percent to build a reserve for operational stability. CDFA expressed concerns about the financial impact of such an increase, especially given Shipping Point Inspection's limited reserve of approximately \$6 million. Kevin proposed a shift to a flat fee model to stabilize costs and allow CASS to build its reserve gradually over time, rather than receiving a one-time allocation. No objections or questions were raised during this segment.

ITEM 6: END OF YEAR RECAP

Kevin Batchelor provided an update on the SPI program's budget. In fiscal year (FY) 2024/25, total inspections were down from the prior year. Total FY 2024/2025 revenue was \$21,443,852, down by \$3,294,066 from the prior year. The CASS contract was amended for total of \$16,499,933. CASS' original contract amount was \$13,792,034. There was \$1,397,933 unspent from the amended CASS contract.

Kevin noted a slight decline in inspections and revenue, attributed to a reduced almond crop and a poor cherry season. Revenue dropped from \$24.7 million in the previous year to \$21.4 million. The CASS contract was amended due to high early overtime usage, increasing the contract from \$13.8 million to \$16.5 million. However, due to the weak cherry season, not all funds were used, allowing CDFA to invest \$300,000 in infrastructure and expect \$1.4 million to return to the program.

Batchelor highlighted the significant impact of the termination of the Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA) in July 2025. TSA inspections previously generated substantial revenue, and their absence has led to a notable decline. Other commodities like almonds, grapes, and avocados showed average performance, though table grapes saw a slight drop, possibly due to increased competition from China in export markets.

ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting concluded with a discussion about scheduling the next committee meeting, tentatively planned for early May 2026. A Doodle poll will be sent in January to finalize the date.

ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. by Chair Pandol.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kevin Batchelor, Program Supervisor
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services