



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STDZ)  
March 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes  
Teleconference**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marko Zaninovich – Chair  
Louis Pandol  
David Silva – Vice Chair  
Ed Williams  
Jeff Simonian  
Scott Deardorff

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Ian LeMay - CA Fresh Fruit Assoc.  
Arnold Johnson - San Bernardino Co.  
Cari Baughman - Stanislaus Co.  
Carrie Mitchell - Merced Co.  
Christopher Greer - Tulare Co.  
Eddy Greynolds - Kern Co.  
Greta Shutler - Alameda Co.  
Jack De Wit - Yolo Co.  
Jeremy Wagner - San Mateo Co.  
Jordan Key - San Diego Co.  
Julian Lopez - Imperial Co.  
Melissa Cregan - Fresno Co.  
Misael Martinez - Riverside Co.  
Monica Winters - San Diego Co.  
Richard Ordonez - Monterey Co.  
Shanna Robbins - Kings Co.  
Angel Gibson - Fresno Co.  
Laura Arellano - Imperial Co.  
Tesfaye Jimma - Tulare Co.  
Scotti Walker - Fresno Co.  
Tom Tucker - Tulare Co.  
Nicole Motley - Tulare Co.  
Amanda Zito - Fresno Co.  
Daniel Delgado Jr - Riverside Co.  
Jatinder Gill - San Joaquin Co.  
Bruce Tanner

**CDFA**

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

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Marko Zaninovich.

**ITEM 2: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **ITEM 4: REVIEW OF OCTOBER 26, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Zaninovich requested a motion to approve the October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes, with the correction of the next meeting date as March 10, 2022.

**MOTION:** Louis Pandol moved to approve the October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes as amended. Vice Chair David Silva seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM 5: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT**

Stacey Hughes provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. Current vacancies include: two Fresh Fruit members; five Fresh Vegetable members; and one member representing other commodities subject to Standardization assessments. Hughes also provided the names of members who will be eligible for reappointment as of September 1, 2022.

#### **ITEM 6: REVIEW OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022/23 COUNTY AGREEMENTS**

Hughes presented the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 County Cooperative Agreements. County agreements for FY 2022/23 total \$866,891. Three of the 18 counties with Standardization County Cooperative Agreements requested additional funding to help offset personnel costs: Riverside County requested \$9,360; Ventura County requested \$7,640; and San Joaquin County requested \$4,000. Hughes asked that these counties provide a report to the STDZ on how they plan to utilize the additional funds.

Jatinder Gill, San Joaquin County, provided an overview of additional funding utilization. Due to challenges in hiring seasonal staff, most inspections are conducted by full time staff. The additional funding will cover increased personnel costs and will also assist in carrying out inspections during the cherry season. Hughes clarified that the \$4000 will come out of the FY 2022/23 travel costs to keep within the proposed budget.

Ed Williams, Ventura County, provided an overview of additional funding utilization. Current enforcement activities include imported melon and Standardization inspections at 38 wholesale distribution centers, as well as field and cooler inspections for vegetable crops. The additional funding will cover costs for additional wholesale and vegetable inspections and will assist with recovering costs for inspections conducted the prior year at a newly identified importer of melons.

Hughes provided an overview of additional funding utilization for Riverside County. Riverside county wants to expand enforcement work within their county and increase enforcement staff. Additionally, the county would like to implement the use of Notices of Proposed Actions for repeat violators. Misael Martinez, Riverside County, clarified that additional support staff is needed to help the one full-time inspector with inspections at the Port of Los Angeles, wholesale markets, and packing sheds.

### **ITEM 7: REVIEW OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022/23 PROGRAM BUDGET**

Hughes presented the Proposed FY 2022/23 Program Budget. Proposed expenditures include: \$805,861 for personal services; \$1,105,206 in operating expenses and equipment; and \$361,343 for departmental services; bringing the total program cost for FY 2022/23 to \$2,272,410. With a projected gas tax credit of \$36,170 and a cash adjustment for statewide costs of \$143,819, the total projected program budget is \$2,380,059. The projected revenue for FY 2022/23 is \$2,444,951.

Hughes noted that the Standardization Program's actual expenditures for personal services, travel, and county costs have been below budgeted amounts in prior years due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. These expenditures will increase as program staff are now working full time and exclusively for the Standardization Program. Information Technology costs for FY 2021/22 will likely exceed budgeted amounts as a result of increased internet security measures at the Department level and the additional costs associated with teleworking. Furthermore, revenue is up in the first and second quarter of this fiscal year due to the assessment fee increase.

Chair Zaninovich requested a motion to approve the Proposed FY 2022/23 Program Budget as presented, which includes the adjustment in the operating expenses of \$4,000 moved from the travel line item to the county contracts line item for the additional funding requested by San Joaquin County, bringing the total county contracts to \$866,891.

**MOTION:** Jeff Simonian moved to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022/23 Program Budget as presented. Vice Chair David Silva seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 8: COUNTY WHOLESALER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION UPDATE**

Williams reported that the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) must wait until the next legislative cycle as language was not submitted to the state legislature in time to make it into the current legislative calendar. Moreover, CACASA seeks additional support from industry and wants a co-sponsor from an industry organization before moving forward.

Steve Patton stated that the Department reached out to industry and received support for the bill. However, the conversation was not framed in such a way that CACASA was looking for a co-sponsor. The Department will continue to work with industry to find a co-sponsor for CACASA.

Chair Zaninovich requested that this discussion be revisited in six months and to be put on the agenda moving forward.

### **ITEM 9: PROGRAM UPDATES**

Hughes shared information on the Imported Table Grape Program. Riverside County began imported table grape inspections at the Port of Los Angeles on January 12<sup>th</sup>. To date, they have inspected eight vessels. Eight non-compliances have been issued for labeling; there have been no maturity issues. Los Angeles County started inspections

for Peruvian grapes at an offsite location with no issues reported. The annual Table Grape Letter that includes the updated varietal list will be sent to industry by the end of next week.

Patton reported that the Produce Safety Program will be transitioning into their own branch and have recently accepted a new five-year agreement with the United States Food and Drug Administration.

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

Chair Zaninovich requested an update on the County Wholesaler Registration Legislation.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

**ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Zaninovich.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Stacey Hughes, Program Supervisor  
Standardization Program