



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

March 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Teleconference

4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274

MEMBERS PRESENT

Louis Pandol
Marko Zaninovich – Chair
Garrett Patricio – Vice Chair
Patrick Tucker
Jeff Simonian
Glenn Fankhauser

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

INTERESTED PARTIES

Tesfaye Jimma – Tulare Co.
Tyler Pereira – Tulare Co.
Mario Gutierrez – Kings Co.
Amanda Zito – Fresno Co.
Ameer Atrash – Ventura Co.
Nina Zlatkov – Los Angeles Co.
Rudy Valencia – Riverside Co.
Timothy Lewis – Monterey Co.
Jeremy Wagner – San Mateo Co.
Sara Sanchez Barajas – San
Bernadino Co.
Monica Winters – San Diego Co.
Delia Cioc – Riverside Co.
Gabriel Rudich – Merced Co.
Greta Shutler – Alameda Co.
Hamp Conners – San Bernardino
Co.
Joseph Lundeen – San Bernardino
Co.
Lauren Balthazor – Ventura Co.
Melissa Lovett – Stanislaus Co.
Robert Pelletier – San Joaquin Co.

CDFA

Marcee Yount
Kristi Garcia
Stacey Hughes
Karrie Batchelor
Danny Lee
Julie Lee
Steve Patton
Anna Carrasquillo
Andrea Todd
Kevin Jenkins

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 completed by Kristi Garcia, and a quorum was established. Introductions followed.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 4: REVIEW OF OCTOBER 22, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Chair Marko Zaninovich requested a motion to approve the October 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION: Patrick Tucker moved to approve the October 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes as presented. Louis Pandol seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions. Jeff Simonian was not present during this motion.

ITEM 5: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Garcia provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report. Current vacancies include: two fresh fruit members, representing oranges, other citrus fruit, or table grapes; four fresh vegetable members, representing broccoli, tomatoes, or lettuce; and two other fresh vegetable members, representing commodities not listed. The following members will have terms ending on August 31, 2025 and will be eligible for reappointment: Garrett Patricio, Patrick Tucker, Glenn Fankhauser, and Louis Pandol. Jeff Simonian is currently serving his fourth term and will term out August 31, 2025.

ITEM 6: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025/26 COUNTY AGREEMENTS

Stacey Hughes presented the Proposed FY 2025/26 County Cooperative Agreements. County agreements for FY 2025/26 totaled \$850,823 and remained the same as the previous year, except for a reallocation of \$7,500 from San Francisco County to Imperial County. Hughes stated that San Francisco County has struggled to utilize its full funding of \$15,813 due to challenges in hiring inspection staff. On average, San Francisco County has used about \$4,400 of their funding in the last four years and is actively trying to fill vacant inspection staff positions. Imperial County has consistently exceeded its funding of \$8,483 due to increased melon enforcement activities and issuance of various types of permits.

ITEM 7: PROPOSED FY 2025/26 PROGRAM BUDGET

Hughes presented the Proposed FY 2025/26 Program Budget. Proposed expenditures include: \$940,247 for personal services; \$1,070,136 in operating expenses and equipment; and \$420,970 for departmental services; bringing the total program cost for FY 2025/26 to \$2,431,353. With a projected gas tax credit of \$36,170 and a cash adjustment for statewide costs of \$57,582, the total projected program budget is \$2,452,765. The projected revenue for FY 2025/26 is \$2,225,235.

Hughes stated that at the committee's last meeting, there were concerns regarding the program's reserve and the need to possibly increase fees in 2026. Since that meeting, there have been some changes that have helped cover costs, thus eliminating the need to increase fees in 2026. These changes included Senate Bill 84 ending this year, which was a bill in place for the last five years to help repay the State Employee Retirement Fund. It was also noted that the program received an exemption from the governor's eight percent budget cut. Vacant positions were eliminated, further decreasing costs. Revenue is up nine percent from the previous year and \$43,000 was collected in back assessments. After a brief discussion, the committee emphasized the importance of reviewing historical budget data for context and requested supplementary personnel information be provided at the next meeting.

Chair Marko Zaninovich requested a motion to approve the Proposed FY 2025/26 Program Budget as submitted.

MOTION: Vice Chair Garret Patricio moved to approve the Proposed FY 2025/26 Program Budget submitted. Patrick Tucker seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 8: PROGRAM UPDATES

Karrie Batchelor led the discussion on program updates. The program is processing a petition to standardize a new orange container and has three experimental container permits underway for citrus, which includes two for oranges and one for grapefruit. Import inspections continue for Chilean and Peruvian grapes and melons across various counties. Ventura County faces logistical issues with inspecting Peruvian grapes at port, prompting efforts to shift inspections to a separate location. Cherry inspection training sessions for county staff were recently scheduled, and the annual table grape guidance letter will be distributed in April.

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, and will be a hybrid meeting held at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and via Zoom. Committee members requested an organizational chart and prior year financial data starting in FY 2018/19, including historical budgets and revenue data.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. by Chair Marko Zaninovich.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacey Hughes, Program Supervisor
Standardization Program