

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Coalinga, CA  
Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2009**

**Members**

Ruben Arroyo  
Gilbert Coelho  
Mark Perez, Jr.  
Dennis Johnston  
Jim Simonian  
Kerry Whitson

**CDFA Representatives**

Rick Jensen  
Steve Patton  
Donna Weathers

**Interested parties**

Manuel Villicana, Kern County  
Alpha Kamara, Kern County  
Dennis Bray, Alameda County  
Steve Schweizer, Kings County  
Scotti Walker, Fresno County  
Thomas Nyberg, Fresno County  
Tim Pelican, Stanislaus County  
Ron Bray, Riverside County

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL**

Mr. Jim Simonian called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**ITEM 2: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS**

Mr. Steve Patton announced several vacant positions on the advisory committee. Mr. Jim Simonian said it was time for a new Committee Chairman.

**ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Action)**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. Gilbert Coelho to elect Mr. Dennis Johnston as the new Chairman and Mr. Kerry Whitson as the Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Perez, Jr. and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 22, 2008 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Mr. Coelho moved to approve the October 22, 2008 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Perez, Jr. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 5: AUDIT UPDATE**

Mr. Steve Patton reported that one financial audit has been performed and by the next meeting in October, CDFA will have a complete report. The purpose of the audit was to make sure everyone is paying their fair share.

### **ITEM 6: REGULATION UPDATES**

Mr. Rick Jensen stated that the initial purpose of AB 2168 was to redefine farm stands so they can sell bottled water and soda products. However, it also significantly impacts the Certified Farmers Market activity. Regulations will have to be changed as they mention the word "consumer". This may have some effect on the Standardization Program but he is not sure if we will be required to change any regulations in that program.

### **ITEM 7: COMMISSIONER REPORT: PROPOSED CHANGES ON FAC 861**

Mr. Ruben Arroyo, Agricultural Commissioner for Kern County, provided handouts outlining the recommended changes for Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) Section 861. Mr. Arroyo asked for support of a new bill to be introduced that would change FAC §861, dealing with proof of ownership. All lots over 25 pounds will be required to have proof of ownership, not just lots over 200 pounds.

**MOTION:** The motion to support California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association's position was moved by Mr. Perez, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Johnston. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 8: BUDGET APPROVAL (ACTION)**

Mr. Patton presented the proposed budget of \$1,856,026 for 2009/2010 and reported that currently there is about \$750,000 in reserve. The counties each presented their 2009/2010 budgets, totaling \$795,656. Mr. Jensen stated that more revenue might be generated as a result of the audits.

**MOTION:** Mr. Coelho made a motion to approve the budget and county contracts as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 9: SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Whitson reported that the sub-committee made an attempt to use the Standardization Committee as a vehicle to try to standardize the food safety audits and to come up with a standard food safety audit that everyone could wrap their arms around instead of coming up with a different audit process each year.

Mr. Jensen acknowledged the problems associated with the industry having to do multiple audits when selling to different retailers who have their own audit criteria. There appears to be some movement by foodservice buyers as well as retailers to accept the Leafy Green Marketing Agreement audits, and who ever is doing those audits, as "the audit".

Mr. Johnson commented on the Federal/State Audit. He expressed concern with the process of the audit once it is sent through Washington's bureaucracy. In doing so, it typically takes a month or so to get the certificate back. The certificate needs to be delivered immediately. He also stated that the certificates were not up to date on the website.

**ACTION:** Mr. Jensen will find out why certificates are not being posted to the website in a timely manner.

#### **ITEM 10: CITRUS ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Mr. Patton reported that at the recent Citrus Advisory Committee meeting members talked about changing the way they assess containers. They would like a 40-pound box to be used as their measure. The sub-committee would like to standardize the weight for not only assessment purposes, but for all the other organizations they belong to such as the Research Board, California Citrus Mutual, and various grower associations. A letter will be mailed out in April to obtain input from all these groups about the proposal. Until then, everything will remain the same.

#### **ITEM 11: 2010 PROGRAM SUNSET**

Every five years, the Standardization Program will sunset unless legislation is passed to extend the sunset date. The Western Growers Association voted unanimously to carry the legislation to continue the program for another five years.

**MOTION:** Mr. Coelho made a motion to support the extension of the Standardization Program another five years. Mr. Perez, Jr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Patton reported that at the next meeting, the committee would be reviewing enforcement activity for 2008/2009.

Mr. Patton proposed a need for discussion regarding the County contracts and enforcement locations. He recommended that a sub-committee be established. The sub-committee should include an Agricultural Commissioner and a State representative to take a look at where the program currently is with contracts and enforcement locations. Mr. Johnston asked for volunteers to form the sub-committee. Mr. Perez, Jr., Mr. Whitson, Mr. Arroyo and Mr. Patton all agreed to participate as members of the committee. Their first meeting will be conducted via telephone conference call.

#### **ITEM 13: NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held October 2009.

**ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Steve Patton, Supervisor  
Standardization Program  
Inspection and Compliance Branch

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