

BRANCH SERVICES

- License dealers, brokers, commission merchants, cash buyers, and processors that handle California farm products for the purpose of resale or processing.
- Verify license status.
- Investigate Verified Complaints against MEB licensees or California farm product businesses.
- Conduct informal mediation services between growers/handlers and licensees.
- Interpret the Produce Dealers Act and the Processor's law and regulations by request.
- Inform growers and licensees of their rights and responsibilities through outreach presentations.

REVENUE SOURCES

- The Branch is 100% industry funded. Funding is derived from license fees paid by dealers, brokers, commission merchants, and processors, of California farm products and agents employed by these entities.
- Licensee fees are determined by the annual dollar volume of business based on the value of the farm product returned to the grower or licensee.
- The Branch does not receive funding from general tax revenues.

PROTECTING THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE WHILE PROVIDING EQUITY IN THE MARKET PLACE FOR THOSE WHO BUY AND SELL FARM PRODUCT

MARKET ENFORCEMENT DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES

SACRAMENTO OFFICE

2399 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, STE 210
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833
916.900.5016

EL MONTE OFFICE

9350 FLAIR DRIVE, STE 204
EL MONTE, CA 91731
626.572.6762

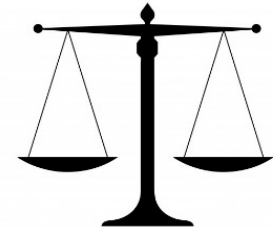
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Our MISSION is to objectively enforce enacted laws to ensure confidence and stability in the agricultural marketplace and to protect against unfair business practices between producers, handlers, and processors of California farm products.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

MARKET ENFORCEMENT BRANCH



DIVISION OF
MARKETING SERVICES



BRANCH HISTORY



The Market Enforcement Branch (MEB) was established in 1928 with the enactment of the Deciduous Fruit Dealers Act.

In 1932, the Act was repealed and replaced by the present Produce Dealers Act, (Chapter 7, Division 20, Food and Agricultural Code), which covers all farm products grown or produced in California with the exception of milk, timber, cattle, and vegetable seed sold between dealers.

In 1935, the Processors Law, (Chapter 6, Division 20), was added to the Code which regulates all persons who purchase California farm products from growers for the purpose of processing.

In response to changes in California's agricultural industry, Chapters 6 & 7 have undergone significant amendments since their inception.

Effective January 1, 1998, Senate Bill 1198 made major changes to the licensing, investigative and settlement activities of the Branch, and impacted Branch license fees and revenues.

BRANCH FUNCTIONS

- Investigate complaints filed by producers and licensees. The most common complaints filed are:
 - failure to pay in full
 - failure to render a true and complete account of sales
 - failure to comply with the provisions of a written agreement
- Take disciplinary action when appropriate against licensees, principals, or agents. Actions may range from Notices of Violation(s), Probation, Suspension and Revocation of a license, or Denial of an application for license.
- Investigate alleged violations by licensed or unlicensed entities to ensure compliance with the Food and Agricultural Code.



- Refer flagrant violators to local law enforcement agencies and/or local prosecutors for civil and/or criminal prosecutions.

Complaints involving fruits and vegetables moving in interstate commerce must first be filed with the United States Department of Agriculture/Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. Market Enforcement Branch requires a letter of denial from the federal agency prior to taking any action.

