

San Joaquin Valley Agricultural  
Commissioners & Sealers Association

October 22-23, 2003 Minutes

Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
Bakersfield, CA

**Members Present:**

Jerry Prieto  
Ted Davis  
Gary Kunkel

Robert Rolan  
Dave Robinson  
Cathi Boze

Scott Hudson  
Tim Niswander

**Guests/Others Present:**

Danny Merkley, DPR Liaison  
Ed Williams, CDFA Liaison  
Manuel Villicana, Kern County  
Marcy Martin, Ca. Apple Commission

Gary Manning, CDFA  
Janice Price, CDFA  
Scott Paulsen, DPR

Bob Klein, Pistachio Commission  
Jack Marks, Kern County  
Ray Green, CDFA

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bob Rolan.  
Additional agenda items were called for and received.

II. Approval of Minutes

None were presented.

III. Correspondence

None

IV. Reports

a. CACASA Executive Report  
None was given.

b. CDFA Liaison Report – Williams

- Greg Van Wassenhove is asking for our priorities for CACASA federal funding requests.
- The legislature has asked CDFA to look into other funding sourced. The two approaches suggested are: 1. to ask for a federal appropriation  
2. To pursue an assessment on shippers.
- Bring W&M thermometers to winter conference.
- CDFA will host a new commissioner orientation on December 18 and 19 , 2003
- CDFA budget cuts: Four million dollars is coming out of exotic newcastle program. The chem. lab is going to be cut \$670,000 and 12 positions. CDFA has another 20% budget cut of general fund monies coming in FY04/05. The rest of the border stations are slated to be closed to affect this cut.

c. DPR Liaison Report – Merkley

- Danny will be looking into questions regarding licensing required for trappers.
- The Worker Right to Know initiative which is part of the hazard communication regulations is moving forward.
- Danny will e-mail suggested training materials for the upcoming oral exams to be passed out to candidates.

d. Personnel Standards Committee – Rolan

Several concepts for modifying the Inspector licensing requirements were discussed.

There was consensus that changes need to be made to increase the pool of candidates available for inspector positions. The oral exams for deputy and commissioner/sealer exams were also discussed.

V. Deputy Group Recommendations/Issues

a. Scanner Ordinance Recommendation – Prieto

Jerry stated that the deputies had done a great job on the draft ordinance. It is up to the individual counties to implement the ordinance.

VI. DPR

a. Conditional Waiver Update – Prieto

The conditional waiver was discussed. A southern watershed group is forming.

b. Repeat Violations – Scott Paulsen

The enforcement letter has been sent out on repeat violations. Repeat violations are strictly in the same class (minor, moderate, serious) and are not section specific. The intent is that there is a progressive deterrent and DPR will give latitude to commissioners in how to handle this.

c. EWG PUR Request – Rolan

Several counties have received this request and have responded.

d. Bottled phosphine gas – Rolan

Echo Fume II is being marketed as a replacement for aluminum phosphide in almond meat fumigation. It is a clean application so that there is no clay left in the nutmeats. The label is more restrictive than most of the phostoxin products in the areas where they can fumigate and aerate. They will have to be continuous monitoring of the fumigation if used indoor.

e. Non-occupational Incident Draft – Paulsen

The guidelines are intended for off-site movement of pesticides into neighborhoods. Every commissioner should have a copy. Kern County has utilized this document and found it very helpful.

f. Oversight Inspection Allocation – Paulsen

Scott presented the current allocation and the new proposal. This topic will be discussed further at winter conference.

g. Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee update – Hudson

- Licensing renewals notices went out late and the licensing branch expects difficulty in processing the applications. DPR has stated there will be flexibility on the deadline.
- Starting January 1 sponsors of continuing education classes will be charged a \$45 fee. Commissioners will be exempt; however the UC will have to pay the fee.
- Category K is required for mosquito control for West Nile Virus.
- There are new education requirements for PCA licenses. Many applications are being denied.
- Fish and Game law requires that trappers for hire must have a trapper's license. It is anticipated that those who trap rodents will be exempted.
- California Department of Health Services has sent out a newsletter to farm workers regarding pesticide safety.

XI. CDFA

a. 2003 Pistachio Crop – Davis (Dr. Bob Klein, California Pistachio Commission)  
Dr Klein stated that the crop was forecast at 180 million pounds and came in at 114.9 million pounds. Based on these numbers, Dr Klein believes a crop disaster declaration is needed. He attributed the crop loss to several factors; poor winter chill, cool weather at bloom and an extended hot spell during the critical nut fill stage. Dr Klein said he would have growers contact their commissioners to provide the information needed to support a disaster request.

b. Granny Smith Maturity Testing – Rolan/Kunkel (Marcy Martin, California Apple Commission) Ms Martin reported that many sheds felt that they had received immature fruit this year. They believed the use of a historical release date had allowed this to happen. The commission would like a return to the prior test procedures and proposes to partially fund the cost of performing these tests. Ms Martin will be making a presentation to the Standardization Committee at Winter conference as to the testing program industry would like.

c. Vine Mealy Bug Ordinance – Davis  
The ordinance and the costs of trapping were discussed. This will be discussed further at Winter conference.

d. CFM's Operating Without Current Certificates – (Janice Price)  
Janice reported that several markets were operating without a current certificate and that there is no requirement in law to require one. Janice proposes a regulation change to require markets to have a current certificate when in operation and to allow the use of a ACP in the serious level. The CFM advisory committee supports this change and Janice would like SJVACASA to support.

**It was MSP to support a regulation that requires CFM's to have a license and allows the use of ACP's at a serious level for those who don't.**

e. WIC Survey at CFM's – (Janice Price)  
WIC is a fruit and vegetable coupon program for women and children. WIC will be sending a letter to agricultural commissioners requesting they ask three questions of each farmer at the farmers market about the WIC program. This commitment of resources would be used as an in kind donation to match federal funding requirements. This will be on the agenda at winter conference.

f. Organic Registration Form Revisions – (Ray Green)  
The draft forms have been sent out for comment. A number of corrections have already been made. Sometime after winter conference the final version will go out to print on NCR paper. Renewals with additional acreage will no longer be processed by the state and will be sent through the counties first.

g. Organic Cosmetics Legislation – (Ray Green)  
The new law requires organic cosmetic products must have at least 7% organic products. The cosmetic organization has tried to remove these requirements. Products out of compliance during label review should be passed to DHS for investigation.

h. Non-certified Ag Products – (Janice Price)  
A non-certified Ag products sub-committee has been formed in the CFM's advisory committee. The sub-committee will be looking into which products are allowed in the certified section. Their will be conference calls on this topic and the commissioners are encouraged to participate.

i. Proposed Standardized Load Lists – (Janice Price)  
The CFM's advisory committee is working on a standardized form for load lists.

XII. W & M

a. W & M Investigative Techniques Training – Davis

b. Committee for Long Range W & M Funding Issues – Prieto  
Representatives from each area group have been appointed.

c. Western Weights and Measures Conference – Prieto  
Jerry thanked everyone for their support. It was a successful conference. CACASA spent \$8000 out of the trust fund to send staff.

There being no further business to be brought before the group, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Robinson, Secretary