

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Marketing Branch

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Actions

Program:	Processing Tomato Advisory Board
Meeting Date:	February 4, 2025
Meeting Location:	Sacramento, CA

Notable Actions:

2025 0204	#25-03	Motion to recommend retaining Clifton Larson Allen, LLP to conduct a financial audit and a fiscal and compliance audit of the Board's 2024 fiscal year financial records. [Approved by Department Order on February 20, 2025]
2025 0204	#25-04	Motion to recommend approval of a minor amendment to Article III, Section A, Subsection 3 of the Marketing Order to revise language related to color determination in required inspections of processing tomatoes. [Approved by Department Order on April 17, 2025]
2025 0204	#25-05	Motion to recommend approval of the 2025 fiscal year budget, based on a projected volume of 10 million tons and including salary increases as presented. [Approved by Department Order on February 20, 2025]
2025 0204	#25-06	Motion to recommend approval of the interim budget for the first quarter of the 2026 fiscal year as presented. [Approved by Department memo on February 20, 2025]
2025 0204	#25-07	Motion to recommend re-hiring Karen Moreno as the Board Manager for the 2025 fiscal year. [Approved by Department memo on April 4, 2025]
2025 0204	#25-08	Motion to recommend the establishment of a schedule of assessment rates for the 2025 fiscal year as presented, with a base assessment rate of \$14.00 per load. [Approved by Department Order on February 13, 2025]

APPROVED

SECRETARY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

By: 

Joe Monson, Branch Chief
Marketing Branch

DATE: AUGUST 29, 2025



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

MINUTES

PROCESSING TOMATO ADVISORY BOARD (PTAB)

FEBRUARY 4, 2025

**The Westin-Sacramento (Monaco 1)
4800 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA**

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, ESTABLISH QUORUM

Board Chairman Garrett Miller called the meeting to order at 9:39 A.M. Roll was called; a quorum was established. The following members and alternates were present:

Producers

Neil Dougherty
Dan Burns
Tim Nuss
Tim Maggiore
Patrick Pinkard (A)
Phillip Perez
Darryl Bettencourt (A)

Processors

Roger Scriven
Garrett Miller
Justin Breem
Tome Lima
Craig Leathers
Blake Wininger (A)
David Moloo (A)
Jeremy LaMendola (A)

For others present please refer to the attached roster.

INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chairman Garrett Miller welcomed the audience. Members of the audience introduced themselves.

CDFA UPDATES

Karen introduced Ben Kardokas and Peter Weber from CDFA. Peter stated that he is the legal representative for Marketing Boards and Commissions and is fairly new and wants to familiarize himself with the various folks they serve. Ben said he did not have any updates or news to share.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the January 30, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. **Board Action 25-01**

PTAB AUDIT RESULTS

Karen Moreno reviewed the Damore, Hamric & Schneider 2023 PTAB financial and CDFA compliance audits. There were two findings from the audit.

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the 2023 financial and CFDA compliance audits as published. **Board Action 25-02**

PTAB AUDITOR DESIGNATION

PTAB was notified in December that Damore, Hamric and Schneider will no longer be conducting audits. There was a motion that the Board designate Clifton, Larson, Allen as auditors for the upcoming 2024 audits.

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to designate Clifton, Larson, Allen to perform the 2024 PTAB audits. **Board Action 25-03**

This action requires separate approval by the Department

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

John Bolce of LP Insurance discussed PTAB's worker's comp Mod-Rate with Zenith Insurance. He stated that in the last few years PTAB has been doing a great job at reducing accidents and the projected Mod Rate for 2026 of 86% is very good. The one accident in 2024 has not reached the cost threshold that would increase the Mod Rate. Since worker's comp costs are based on a three-year average PTAB will need to continue it's hard work to eliminate accidents at the inspection stations. He advised that the current trend is so good, but not to think its sustainable, accidents do happen.

PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENT

The current language in the PTAB Marketing Order states that the maximum comminuted color score is 39. This is based on the older LED Colorimeter scale. When PTAB switched to the automated TJIS lab machine the color scale was changed to Hunter Hue Angle. PTAB is proposing that the language in the Marketing Order be updated to say, "The maximum Board approved tomato color instrument reading suggested to meet the minimum color for tomatoes shall be 25, using the Hunter Hue Angle score." (Exhibit A)

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to change the color reading language in the Marketing Order to a Hunter Hue Angle score of 25. **Board Action 25-04**

This action requires separate approval by the Department

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

CDFA re-appointed Craig Leathers (Campbell Soup) and Tome Lima (Ingomar Packing) as processor members. Blake Wininger (Los Gatos Tomato Products) and Jeremy LaMendola (ConAgra Foods) were newly appointed as processor alternates. Phillip Perez (Silverdale Farms) and Tim Maggiore (F.A. Maggiore & Sons) were reappointed as producer members. Patrick Pinkard (Terranova Ranch) was reappointed as a producer alternate, and Todd Brendin (Grimmway Farms) was appointed as producer alternate. Karen Moreno stated that there are currently two Alternate member vacancies on the Board (Exhibit B).

Both the Producers and Processors decided to wait until the fall to fill the vacant alternate member positions during the nomination process with CDFA.

I.T. SERVICES

For the last 20 plus years PTAB has been using in-house software (CROP) to produce the weekly tonnage and variety reports that are published on the PTAB website. The programmer who built and supported this software is retiring. PTAB had long discussions with Cultura as they host all of the data that PTAB uses to produce the reports. Cultura has been involved in the processing tomato industry since the late

1980's. They provide software for half of the inspection stations. Both processors and growers use their ExtendAg program to generate reports about their load information. The plan will be for CROP and the new program to run parallel during the 2025 season and then switch to the new Cultura program in 2026 if everything goes well. The cost to support CROP for the final season is \$36K. The cost for the new program will be \$128K. This cost is one-time and will not be carried over to the 2026 budget. Moving forward there will be an annual support fee for Cultura to fix any issues or problems that may arise. That base support fee will be \$5,500.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Karen Moreno reviewed the 2024 budget. She presented the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendations (Exhibit C) for the 2025 year. The committee recommendation is to approve a budget based on a 10 Million-ton crop (Exhibit D). Karen asked the Board to approve a 2026 interim budget of \$36K in revenue and \$400K in expenses (Exhibit E). The Committee also recommended keeping the base inspection fee at \$14.00 per load (Exhibit F). The budget includes salary increases. It was recommended the Board re-hire Karen Moreno as the Board Manager.

ACTION

There was discussion about the expected crop and there was a motion to adopt a 10 Million ton budget, including salary increases, which was seconded, and passed unanimously. **Board Action 25-05**

This action requires separate approval by the Department

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve an Interim Budget, as presented, for the first quarter of 2026. **Board Action 25-06**

This action requires separate approval by the Department

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to re-hire Karen Moreno as the Board Manager. **Board Action 25-07**

This action requires separate approval by the Department

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve a base inspection rate of \$14.00 for the 2025 season. **Board Action 25-8**

This action requires separate approval by the Department

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Karen Moreno reported that it is the Producer's turn to chair the Board.

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Producers, electing Neil Dougherty to serve as the 2025 Board Chair. **Board Action 25-09**

ACTION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Processors, electing Garrett Miller to serve as the 2025 Board Vice-Chair. **Board Action 25-10**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Board meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M.

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I, Karen Moreno, Manager of the California Processing Tomato Advisory Board, do hereby declare that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the California Processing Tomato Advisory Board meeting on February 4, 2025.



Karen Moreno, Manager
Processing Tomato Advisory Board



Date

ROSTER

PTAB MEETING- FEBRUARY 4, 2025

Board Members

Neil Dougherty
Roger Scriven
Garrett Miller
Craig Leathers
Justin Breem
Dan Burns
Tim Maggiore
Tome Lima
Phillip Perez
Tim Nuss

Dougherty Farms
The Morning Star Packing Co.
J.G. Boswell Company
Campbell Soup Co.
Stanislaus Food Products
Nickel Family LLC
F.A. Maggiore & Sons
Ingomar Packing
Silverdale Farms
Nuss Farms

Board Alternates

Blake Winingar
David Moloo
Patrick Pinkard
Darryl Bettencourt
Jeremy LaMendola

Los Gatos Tomato Products
Escalon Premier Brands
Terranova Ranch
J.G. Boswell Company
ConAgra Brands

Others Present

Karen Moreno
J.D. Blevins
Jill Shepherd
Connie Read
Peter Weber
Ben Kardokus
Mike Montna
Zachary Bagley
Sophie Colvine
John Bolce

PTAB
PTAB
PTAB
PTAB
CDFA
CDFA
CTGA
CTRI
WPTC
LP Insurance

	PTAB Board Meeting 2/4/2025						
<u>Board Member</u>	<u>25-01</u>	<u>25-02</u>	<u>25-03</u>	<u>25-04</u>	<u>25-05</u>	<u>25-06</u>	<u>25-07</u>
Neil Dougherty	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Tim Maggiore	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Dan Burns	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Patrick Pinkard	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Tim Nuss	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Garrett Miller	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Roger Scriven	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Craig Leathers	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Tome Lima	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
Justin Breem	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye
OUTCOME	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed
<u>Board Member</u>	<u>25-08</u>	<u>25-09</u>	<u>25-10</u>				
Neil Dougherty	Aye	Abstain					
Tim Maggiore	Aye	Aye					
Dan Burns	Aye	Aye					
Patrick Pinkard	Aye	Aye					
Tim Nuss	Aye	Aye					
Garrett Miller	Aye		Abstain				
Roger Scriven	Aye		Aye				
Craig Leathers	Aye		Aye				
Tome Lima	Aye		Aye				
Justin Breem	Aye		Aye				
OUTCOME	Passed	Passed	Passed				

Proposed Minor Amendment language

- Page 7, Marketing Order Current Language: Any load of tomatoes which is offered for delivery to a processor may be rejected and turned back to the producer if the tomatoes do not meet the minimum standards for color based on comminuted raw product sampling. The maximum Board approved tomato color instrument reading suggested to meet the minimum color for tomatoes shall be 39.
- Suggested change to: Any load of tomatoes which is offered for delivery to a processor may be rejected and turned back to the producer if the tomatoes do not meet the minimum standards for color based on comminuted raw product sampling. The maximum Board approved tomato color instrument reading suggested to meet the minimum color for tomatoes shall be 25, using the Hunter Hue Angle Score.



Processing Tomato Advisory Board – 2025

Producer Members	
Member	Alternate Member
Neil Dougherty Dougherty Farms, Inc. Term: 1/1/23 – 12/31/25	Darryl Bettencourt JG Boswell Company Term: 1/1/23 – 12/31/25
Dan Burns Nickel Family LLC Term: 1/1/24 – 12/31/26	Vacant
Tim Nuss Nuss Farms Term: 1/1/24 – 12/31/26	Lee Del Don Del Mar Farms Term: 1/1/24 – 12/31/26
Phillip Perez Silverdale Farms, Inc. Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/27	Patrick Pinkard Terranova Ranch, Inc. Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/27
Tim Maggiore F.A. Maggiore & Sons Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/27	Todd Brendlin Grimmway Farms Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/27
Processor Members	
Member	Alternate
Justin Breem Stanislaus Food Products Term: 1/1/23 – 12/31/25	Vacant
Garrett Miller JG Boswell Company Term: 1/1/24 – 12/31/26	David Moloo Escalon Premier Brands Term: 1/1/24 – 12/31/26
Roger Scriven Morning Star Company Term: 1/1/24 – 12/31/26	Robert Krahn Neil Jones Food Company Term: 1/1/24 – 12/31/26
Craig Leathers Campbell Soup Co. Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/27	Blake Wininger Los Gatos Tomato Products Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/27
Tome Lima Ingomar Packing Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/27	Jeremy LaMendola ConAgra Foods Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/27

PROCESSING TOMATO ADVISORY BOARD

P.O. BOX 1800 • DAVIS, CA 95617-1800 • (530) 759-7501 • FAX (530) 759-7504

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2025

Doubletree Hotel – Board Room

2233 Cesar Chavez Blvd.

Fresno, CA 93721

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by PTAB Chair, Garrett Miller. The following members, alternates, and non-board members participated in the meeting:

In person: Roger Scriven (Morning Star), Dan Burns (Nikel Family LLC), Darryl Bettencourt (J.G. Boswell), Garrett Miller (J.G. Boswell), Justin Breem (Stanislaus Food Products), Karen Moreno (PTAB)

Zoom: Neil Dougherty (Dougherty Farms), Ron Ley (Damore, Hamric, and Schneider), Patrick Pinkard (Terranova Ranch) and Ben Kardokus (CDFA).

1. Call to Order, Roll Call
2. 2023 PTAB Audit Results – Ron Ley, Managing Principal presented PTAB's Financial and Compliance Audit findings. He informed the Board that their company will no longer be conducting audits so PTAB will need to find a replacement auditor for the next audit.
3. 2024 Budget Review — Karen reviewed the 2024 Budget Projections.
4. Closed Session - The committee met in closed session. Recommendations for pay raises were decided.
5. PTAB 2025 Budget Proposal – The committee discussed various tonnage scenarios and inspection fees. The committee had a motion to recommend approval of the budget with no opposition and all voting in favor with the following assumptions:
 - a Budget based on 10M paid for tons.
 - b No increase in inspection fees, to remain the same at an average of \$14.00 per hour.
 - c Pay raises for PTAB employees.
6. Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2025 California Processing Tomato Report

Pacific Region · 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 6-100 · Sacramento, CA 95814 · (916) 738-6600 · (855) 270-2722 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Released: January 22, 2025

TOMATO PROCESSORS EXPECT TO CONTRACT 10.2 MILLION TONS IN 2025

As of January, California's tomato processors reported they have, or will have, contracts for 10.2 million tons in 2025, which is a decrease of 10% compared to 11.3 million contracted tons forecast in the August 2024 California Processing Tomato Report. Processors estimate that the contracted production for 2025 will come from 200,000 acres, generating an average yield of 51.0 tons per acre. This year's contracted planted acreage forecast is 12% below the 2024 estimate of 228,000 planted acres under contract in the August forecast.

The USDA-NASS Pacific Regional Office surveyed California's tomato processors for their intended contract acreage and tonnage for the upcoming 2025 season. The data reported by processors was either tonnage with derived acreage, or acreage with derived tonnage.

This early processing tomato estimate is funded by the California League of Food Producers.

Year	INTENDED AND FINAL HARVESTED CONTRACTED PRODUCTION		
	January 1	Final	Difference
	Thousand tons		
2006	11,600	10,024	-1,576
2007	12,000	11,965	-35
2008	11,800	11,691	-109
2009	13,300	13,148	-152
2010	12,600	12,212	-388
2011	12,600	11,900	-700
2012	12,700	12,540	-160
2013	13,000	11,900	-1,100
2014	13,500	13,965	+465
2015	15,000	14,307	-693
2016	13,200	12,527	-673
2017	11,600	10,407	-1,193
2018	12,000	11,994	-6
2019	12,100	11,130	-970
2020	12,000	11,312	-688
2021	12,100	10,730	-1,370
2022	12,200	10,464	-1,736
2023	12,400	12,752	352
2024 ¹	11,600	(NA)	(NA)
2025	10,200	(NA)	(NA)

¹ Final production will be released in the Vegetables Annual Summary on February 12, 2025.

(NA) Not available.

California Tomato Acreage and Production

Year	Total crop			Contract only			
	Planted	Harvested	Production	Planted	Harvested	Production	
	Acres		Tons	Acres		Tons	Metric tons
2006	283,000	282,000	10,104,000	280,000	279,000	10,024,000	9,094,000
2007	301,000	296,000	12,082,000	298,000	293,000	11,965,000	10,854,000
2008	281,000	279,000	11,822,000	278,000	276,000	11,691,000	10,606,000
2009	312,000	308,000	13,314,000	308,000	304,000	13,148,000	11,928,000
2010	271,000	270,000	12,297,000	269,000	268,000	12,212,000	11,079,000
2011	255,000	250,000	11,941,000	254,000	249,000	11,900,000	10,796,000
2012	260,000	258,000	12,640,000	258,000	256,000	12,540,000	11,376,000
2013	263,000	260,000	12,100,000	259,000	256,000	11,900,000	10,796,000
2014	292,000	289,000	14,010,000	291,000	288,000	13,965,000	12,669,000
2015	299,000	296,000	14,361,000	297,000	295,000	14,307,000	12,979,000
2016	262,000	258,000	12,647,000	260,000	256,000	12,527,000	11,364,000
2017	230,000	222,000	10,464,000	229,000	221,000	10,407,000	9,441,000
2018	241,000	236,000	12,284,000	235,000	230,000	11,994,000	10,881,000
2019	235,000	228,000	11,186,000	234,000	227,000	11,130,000	10,097,000
2020	234,000	228,000	11,312,000	234,000	228,000	11,312,000	10,262,000
2021	230,000	228,000	10,765,000	229,000	227,000	10,730,000	9,734,000
2022	231,000	225,000	10,496,000	230,000	224,000	10,464,000	9,493,000
2023	269,000	255,000	12,805,000	268,000	254,000	12,752,000	11,569,000
2024 ^{1 2}	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	228,000	226,000	11,300,000	10,252,000
2025	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	200,000	(NA)	10,200,000	9,254,000

¹ Data for 2024 was carried forward from the California Processing Tomato Report, published on August 29, 2024.

² Final acreage and production will be released in the Vegetables Annual Summary on February 12, 2025.

(NA) Not available.

California publications are available
free-of-charge on the Internet at: www.nass.usda.gov/ca

PROCESSING TOMATO ADVISORY BOARD

P.O. BOX 1800 • DAVIS, CA 95617-1800 • (530) 759-7501 • FAX (530) 759-7504

TO: PTAB Board Members

FROM: Karen Moreno

RE: Interim 2026 Budget

Greetings,

Historically, the Board reviews and approves its budget at the January meeting. And, after the board stamps its approval, CDFA has 30 to 45 days for its review and approval process. The budget is unofficial while it is in these various stages of review, so technically we are operating without a budget during the first few weeks of our fiscal (calendar) year.

We propose the Board approve an interim budget to allow a seamless transition between budgeting cycles without disrupting the timing of our meetings, changing our fiscal year or delaying the payments of our obligations.

Below is the proposed interim budget for Quarter 1, 2026. This should be an ample amount to cover fixed expenses like rents, insurance payments and salaries until the official budget is signed and approved by the Board and CDFA. The official 12-month budget supersedes the Quarter 1 interim budget once we receive the approved version at our office.

PTAB's Interim Budget January 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026
Revenue: \$36,000
Expenses: \$400,000

PTAB 2025 INSPECTION FEES
\$14.00 BASE FEE

Exhibit F

Inspection Station	2025 Inspection Fee
Dixon	14.74
Escalon	15.12
Hanford	15.04
Hollister	16.04
Ingomar	13.50
JG Boswell Kern	14.44
JG Boswell Kings	14.60
Los Banos	13.68
Los Gatos	13.82
Oakdale	14.54
Patterson	20.82
PCP	14.44
Santa Nella	13.28
Stanislaus	14.14
Toma Tek	13.94
Valley	14.78
Williams	13.90
Exempt Tonnage (per ton)	\$0.56