



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

November 8, 2013

**REFERENDUM TO CONSIDER PROPOSED MAJOR AMENDMENTS TO  
THE CALIFORNIA PROCESSING TOMATO INSPECTION PROGRAM**

**VOTING DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 23, 2013**

**To the California Processing Tomato Producer or Processor Addressed:**

On October 9, 2013, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) initiated a referendum among affected processing tomatoes producers and processors in the state to determine whether or not proposed major amendments to the California Processing Tomato Inspection Program should be implemented. In order for this referendum to be valid, at least 40 percent of eligible producers and at least 40 percent of eligible processors must participate in the vote. As of the date of this letter, CDFA has not received a sufficient number of ballots to meet this requirement. Therefore, as authorized by Section 58995 of the California Marketing Act, CDFA is extending the voting period for an additional 15 days to provide more opportunity for producers and processors to participate in this referendum.

Since our office has yet to receive a completed ballot from your entity, we are enclosing a duplicate copy of your ballot and a postage-prepaid return envelope. Each separate legal entity who currently produces or processes processing tomatoes is entitled to receive a ballot and participate in this referendum. If you would like to participate in this referendum, please complete all applicable sections on the ballot and submit it to CDFA in the envelope provided. Ballots must be postmarked or otherwise received by this office no later than **November 23, 2013**. If you have already submitted a ballot for this process, please disregard this notice (it is not necessary to re-submit a second ballot).

The proposed amendments would authorize the California Processing Tomato Inspection Program to conduct variety evaluation research for processing tomatoes. These amendments have been recommended by the Processing Tomato Advisory Board in response to the discontinuation of the statewide processing tomato variety evaluation trials conducted by the University of California Cooperative Extension. The specific language that is being proposed to add to the marketing order can be found on the reverse side of this notice.

(Over)



## ARTICLE 4.5

### VARIETY EVALUATION RESEARCH

Section A. RESEARCH ON PROCESSING TOMATO VARIETIES. The Advisory Board is authorized, subject to the approval of the Secretary, to undertake or cause to be conducted, to administer, to enter into contracts with qualified research agencies and to expend monies for research relating to the evaluation of processing tomato varieties.

Section B. DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH INFORMATION. The Advisory Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may release, distribute, and disseminate the results of research studies, surveys, and information obtained as a result of research, to appropriate parties.

The proposed amendments cannot be implemented without first being approved by producers and processors in separate votes conducted by CDFA. The following criteria must be achieved by both segments of the industry in order for the proposed amendments to become effective:

1. At least 40 percent of the total number of eligible entities on record must submit valid ballots, **and**
2. Of those voting, at least 65 percent by number, representing at least 51 percent of the total voted volume, must vote in favor of implementing the proposed amendments, *or*

Of those voting, at least 51 percent by number, representing at least 65 percent of the total voted volume, must vote in favor of implementing the proposed amendments.

If one or both segments of the industry (producer/processor) fail to meet the above criteria, the proposed amendments will not be implemented and the marketing order will remain unchanged.

The results of the referendum will be announced following ballot tabulation. Individual votes will be kept confidential. If you have any questions regarding the major amendment process or the proposed amendments, please contact Joe Monson of this office at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief  
Marketing Branch

Enclosures