



December 11, 2013

**PROPOSED MAJOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA PROCESSING TOMATO INSPECTION PROGRAM NOT IMPLEMENTED**

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

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) recently conducted a referendum among producers and processors of processing tomatoes to determine whether the California Processing Tomato Inspection Program should be amended to provide authority to conduct variety evaluation research for processing tomatoes. The final voting tally shows that the approval criteria required for implementing these proposed major amendments to the Program was not achieved. As a result, the California Processing Tomato Inspection Program will remain unchanged and will not be authorized to conduct variety evaluation research. Below is a summary of the voting results from each sector of the industry:

Producer Referendum Results	
Percentage of producers who participated in the referendum	40.9%
Of those voting, percentage of producers voting in favor of the amendments	71.2%
Of those voting, percentage of volume represented by those voting in favor	42.5%
Processor Referendum Results	
Percentage of processors who participated in the referendum	87.5%
Of those voting, percentage of processors voting in favor of the amendments	38.1%
Of those voting, percentage of volume represented by those voting in favor	42.1%

In order for the proposed amendments to have been implemented, the following criteria must have been achieved by both producers and processors in separate votes:

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**

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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.

As shown in the tables above, the level of required support necessary to implement the proposed amendments was not achieved by either segment of the industry. Thus, the proposed amendments will not be made effective.

If you have any questions regarding these referendum results, please contact Joe Monson of this office at (916) 900-5018. For questions concerning the activities of the California Processing Tomato Inspection Program, please contact Tom Ramme, Manager of the Processing Tomato Advisory Board, at (530) 759-7501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Maxie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Maxie, Chief  
Marketing Branch