



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

March 4, 2019

**OLIVE OIL COMMISSION OF CALIFORNIA
AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) recently conducted a public hearing to receive comments from the California olive oil industry and from the public on whether the operation of the Olive Oil Commission of California (Commission) should be continued. The Department is required to conduct such a hearing every five years pursuant to Sections 79891 and 79892 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. Based on the analysis of the hearing record, the Department has concluded that there is no substantial question as to whether the Commission should continue and therefore the Commission is authorized to operate for another five years through June 30, 2024 without the need for a producer vote.

Most of the testimony and evidence submitted into the hearing record was strongly supportive of the Commission's continued operation. It was broad-based as it was received from a diverse group of industry representatives. It was also broad in scope as it highlighted the Commission's contributions to the California olive oil industry via a range of activities including the implementation of strict standards for the purity and quality of California olive oil, verifying California olive oil quality through mandatory sampling and third-party analysis, requiring clear accurate labeling for California olive oil and conducting research to assist farmers in growing olives for olive oil. A small number of industry representatives expressed some limited concerns about the Commission's activities. Although such concerns should be carefully considered by the Commission, the Department concluded that they did not raise a substantial question as to whether the Commission should be continued.

The transcript and other official documents associated with this hearing can be accessed online at: <https://it.cdfa.ca.gov/igov/postings/detail.aspx?type=Hearing>

If you have questions about this public hearing, please contact Dennis Manderfield of this office at 916-900-5018. If you have questions about the activities of the Commission, please call Chris Zanobini, Executive Director of the Commission, at 916-441-1581.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch

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