

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS**

PISTACHIO HANDLER BALLOT MATERIAL

BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

TO PISTACHIO HANDLERS:

All pistachio handlers recently had the opportunity to nominate themselves or other eligible individuals to serve on the Administrative Committee for Pistachios (Committee). The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now conducting an election to seat the initial Committee. If you currently handle pistachios for market, you are eligible to vote in the election. Attached are voting instructions; eligibility requirements; and a ballot. Please read the attached directions carefully and submit your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope postmarked by or hand deliver to the California Marketing Field Office in Fresno, California, no later than _____.

FV-244 (05/06)

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
California Marketing Field Office
2202 Monterey St. Suite 102B
Fresno, CA 93721**

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE FOR
PISTACHIOS
OFFICIAL HANDLER BALLOT**

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR PISTACHIOS HANDLER MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE HANDLER MEMBERS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ATTACHED BALLOT

1. VOTING PERIOD: _____ through _____
2. VOTER ELIGIBILITY: A pistachio handler eligible to vote is any business entity currently engaged in the handling of pistachios within the State of California.
3.
 - a. There are two handler member and alternate handler member positions to be filled on the Committee. For the first handler member and alternate handler member positions, each handler entity is entitled to one vote. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be the handler member and the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will be the alternate handler member.
 - b. For the second handler member and alternate handler member position, each handler entity shall be entitled to cast one vote respectively for each ton of inshell pistachios received for processing by that handler during the two production years preceding the production year in which the nominations are made. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be the handler member and the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will be the alternate handler member.
4. As you cast your ballot, keep in mind that the two handler member and alternate handler member positions must be represented by handlers that are not affiliated with each other. Only one member and one alternate representing handlers shall be employed by, or affiliated with the same handler and/or producer.
 - a. “Affiliated” means a person such as a producer or handler who is: a producer or handler that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, owns or controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with the producer or handler specified; or a producer or handler that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, is connected in a proprietary capacity, or shares the ownership or control of the specified producer or handler with one or more other producers or handlers. As used in this part, the term “control” (including the terms “controlling”, “controlled by”, and “under the common control with”) means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a handler or a producer, whether through voting securities, membership in a cooperative, by contract or otherwise.
 - b. “Proprietary capacity” means the capacity or interest of a producer or handler that, either directly or through one or more intermediaries, is a property owner together with all the appurtenant rights of an owner including the right to vote the interest in that capacity as an individual, a shareholder, member of a cooperative, partner, trustee or in any other capacity with respect to any other business unit.
5. In the spaces provided, print your name, address, tax id number, e-mail address, and telephone number.
6. Certify that your are eligible to cast a ballot by signing and dating the ballot.
7. The completed ballot must be postmarked or hand-delivered no later than _____.
8. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. We also ask that you be mindful of the Department’s policy regarding Civil Rights and consider eligible women, minorities, and the physically-challenged for membership on the Committee.
9. If you have any questions, please contact the California Marketing Field Office at 2202 Monterey Street, Suite 102B, Fresno, California 93721; Telephone (559) 487-5901; FAX (559) 487-5906.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR PISTACHIOS
HANDLER MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE HANDLER MEMBER'S BALLOT**

HANDLER POSITION 1

Because the Order prescribes that each handler member will have an alternate handler member on the Committee the candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be seated as a member and the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will be seated as the alternate handler member. Please vote, sign the ballot, and mail or hand deliver to the California Marketing Field Office at 2202 Monterey Street, Suite 102B, Fresno, California 93721.

Mark the box for the candidate of your choice. Vote for one candidate only. If you do not wish to vote for any of the candidates, you may write-in your candidate of choice in the appropriate space. Each handler is entitled to one vote for Position 1. (Voting for the second handler position is on the reverse of this ballot.)

Position #1 Candidate _____
Candidate _____
Candidate _____
Candidate _____
Write-In Candidate _____

BALLOTING FOR HANDLER POSITION 2 IS ON THE REVERSE OF THIS BALLOT

