

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

OFFICIAL PRODUCER'S BALLOT
ON CONTINUANCE OF MARKETING ORDER NO. 983,
REGULATING THE HANDLING OF PISTACHIOS
GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

INSTRUCTIONS: Please read the voting instructions and eligibility requirements on the reverse side. Then complete this ballot, including the Voter Certification and Eligibility section. Return your ballot in the envelope provided. Ballots must be signed and postmarked on or before xxxxxx xx, xxxx.

This referendum is for continuance of the Federal pistachio marketing order. The Secretary of Agriculture will consider termination of the pistachio marketing order if less than two-thirds of those voting and less than two-thirds of the volume represented in the referendum favor continuance. Indicate your vote by placing an "x" in the appropriate box:

[]

I FAVOR CONTINUANCE of the Federal pistachio marketing order.

[]

I DO NOT FAVOR CONTINUANCE of the Federal pistachio marketing order.

VOTER CERTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

I CERTIFY that I am an eligible producer of pistachios. I am currently producing pistachios and produced pistachios during the period from September 1, XXXX, through August 30, XXXX,

I produced _____ on _____ in _____
Pounds (assessable weight) Acres County/Countries

NOTE: If you are farming on a share crop basis, show only that part of the crop representing your share.

If a partnership, give name of partner(s): _____

If this ballot is cast by an officer or employee on behalf of a producer (corporation or institution) or by a trustee, executor, or administrator of a producing estate (not by a farm manager), I CERTIFY that I have the authority to cast this ballot and will submit evidence of such authority at the request of an agent of the Secretary of Agriculture. (SIGNATURE REQUIRED BELOW)

BUSINESS ENTITY NAME _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS ENTITY (Corporation, Estate, Partnership, etc.) _____

ADDRESS _____

Street City and State Zip Code

YOUR TITLE _____

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____ (SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

This information is required to determine voter eligibility. Falsification of information on this government document may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001).

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0215. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. 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.

TO THE PISTACHIO PRODUCER ADDRESSED:

The ballot on the reverse side of this form will be used to record your vote for **continuation** or **termination** of the Federal marketing order regulating the handling of pistachios grown in the State of California. After reading the following voting instructions and eligibility requirements, please record your vote on the ballot, complete the VOTER CERTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY SECTION, and return the ballot to this office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. **Ballots postmarked later than XXXXXX XX, XXXX will not be counted.**

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

I. VOTING PERIOD: XXXXX XX – XXXXX XX, 20XX

II. PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: Any producer currently engaged in the commercial production of pistachios in the State of California and who was so engaged during the representative period from September 1, XXXX through August 30, XXXX, (20XX crop) is entitled to cast one ballot. An authorized officer or employee of a corporate producer; or an administrator, executor, or trustee of a producing estate or any other business unit is eligible to cast one vote on behalf of such producing business entity.

“PRODUCER” means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit who:

- A. Owns and farms land, resulting in ownership of the pistachios produced thereon;
- B. Rents and farms land, resulting in ownership of all or a portion of the pistachios produced thereon;
- C. Owns land, which he or she does not farm and, as rental for such land, obtains ownership for a portion of the pistachios produced thereon.

III. HOW TO VOTE:

- A. Certify your eligibility by completing the VOTER CERTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY SECTION on the reverse side.
- B. Indicate whether you favor continuance or termination of the pistachios marketing order by placing an “X” in the appropriate box. **PROXY VOTING IS NOT AUTHORIZED.**
- C. Return your completed ballot to the USDA in the postage paid envelope provided.

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR MORE THAN ONE ENTITY AND NEED ADDITIONAL BALLOTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CALIFORNIA MARKETING FIELD OFFICE AT (559) 487-5901.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

OFFICIAL PRODUCER’S BALLOT