

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

OFFICIAL PRODUCER'S BALLOT
ON CONTINUANCE OF MARKETING ORDER NO. 981, AS AMENDED
REGULATING THE HANDLING OF ALMONDS GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

INSTRUCTIONS: Please read the enclosed Voting Instructions and Eligibility Requirements, and then complete this Ballot, including the Voter Certification and Eligibility section. Return your Ballot in the envelope provided. Your Ballot must be signed and postmarked by \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ to be valid.

This referendum is for continuance of Marketing Order number 981 (Order), as amended, regulating the handling of almonds grown in California. The Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) will consider termination of the 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 Order [ ] I DO NOT FAVOR continuance of the Order

VOTER CERTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

I certify that I am an eligible producer of almonds. I am currently producing almonds, and during the period from August 1, 20\_\_ through July 31, 20\_\_, I produced \_\_\_\_\_ pounds (kernel weight) of almonds on \_\_\_\_\_ acres in \_\_\_\_\_ county(ies). Note: if you are farming on a share-crop basis, show only that part of the crop representing your share.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

If a partnership, give name(s) 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, 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.

Entity Name \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business Entity (corporation, partnership, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

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 0581-0178. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 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.

**VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**A. VOTING PERIOD:** \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

**B. PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE:** Any producer who is currently engaged in the commercial production of almonds in California and was so engaged during the representative period from August 1, 20\_\_ through July 31, 20\_\_ (20\_\_ crop year) is entitled to cast one vote. 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 any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit who:

- (1) owns and farms land, resulting in ownership of the almonds produced thereon;
- (2) rents and farms land, resulting in ownership of all or a portion of the almonds produced thereon; or
- (3) owns land from which he or she does not farm and, as rental for such land, obtains ownership of a portion of the almonds produced thereon.

**C. HOW TO VOTE:**

- 1. Indicate whether you favor or do not favor continuance of Marketing Order No. 981, regulating the handling of almonds grown in California, by placing an X in the appropriate box. Proxy voting is not authorized.
- 2. Certify your eligibility by completing the Voter Certification and Eligibility section. Incomplete Ballots will not be counted.
- 3. Sign the certification statement. Unsigned Ballots will not be counted.
- 4. Return your Ballot in the self-addressed envelope enclosed. No postage is necessary.

If you are eligible to vote for more than one entity and need additional Ballots, 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, CA 93721