United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service Specialty Crops Program California Marketing Field Office 2202 Monterey Street, Suite 102-B Fresno, CA 93721

# PISTACHIO BALLOT

TO PISTACHIO PRODUCERS:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is submitting, for producer consideration, proposed amendments to Marketing Order No. 983, regulating the handling of pistachios grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. The proposed amendments will not be made effective unless they are favored by at least two-thirds of the eligible producers voting in this Referendum or by producers representing at least two-thirds of the volume of pistachios voted in the Referendum. If approved, the proposed amendments would:

### (SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO BE PROVIDED HERE)

A Producer Referendum Ballot is on the reverse side of this page. Also enclosed are:

1) Voting Instructions and Rules Governing Prod	ucer Eligibilit	y to Vote;	
2) The news release announcing the referendum;	and		
3) A copy of the Referendum Order dated (	, 20).		
The voting period for the referendum is (, 20	) through (_	, 20	_). Please vote
promptly because <b>ballots postmarked later than</b> (	, 20) ca	innot be ope	ned or counted
Each ballot will be held in strict confidence.			
, Referendum Agent			
Phone: (559) 487-5901			

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to 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.

## PRODUCER REFERENDUM BALLOT

Marketing Order No. 983 Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona and New Mexico

Please read the enclosed VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PRODUCER ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE before completing this ballot.

A. This referendum is for amendment of the marketing order. Indicate your vote by placing an 'X' in the appropriate box.

YES	NO	1) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	
YES	NO	2) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	
YES	NO	3) a. Do you favor amending the marketing order to _	?	
YES	NO	b. Do you favor amending the marketing order to _	?	
YES	NO	4) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	
YES	NO	5) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	
YES	NO	6) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	
YES	NO	7) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	
YES	NO	8) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	
YES	NO	9) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	
YES	NO	10) Do you favor amending the marketing order to	?	

#### VOTER CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

	, 20), through (				
	on ds (assessable weight)		in	in _	
un	ds (assessable weight)	Acres	County/Cou	nties St	ate/States
		(SIGNATU	URE REQUIRED BEI	LOW – SECTION D)	
	Producer's Name			Phone Nun	nber
	Name of Business				
	Mailing Address				
	City			State	Zip
	unit, my signature belo	ow further cert	employee of a partnershi ifies that I am duly auth bmit evidence of such a	orized to vote on behalf	f of the producing ent
	unit, my signature belo name on this ballot and Secretary.	ow further cert d that I will su	ifies that I am duly auth	orized to vote on behalf uthority at the request o	f of the producing en f an Agent of the
	unit, my signature belo name on this ballot and Secretary.	ow further cert d that I will su	ifies that I am duly auth bmit evidence of such a	orized to vote on behalf uthority at the request o	f of the producing end f an Agent of the
	unit, my signature beloname on this ballot and Secretary.	ow further cert d that I will su	ifies that I am duly auth bmit evidence of such a  poration Associat	orized to vote on behali uthority at the request of ion \[ \] Other	f of the producing en f an Agent of the
	unit, my signature beloname on this ballot and Secretary.  Partnership I  Signature*  If Partnership or Joint	ow further cert d that I will su  LLC	ifies that I am duly auth bmit evidence of such a  poration Associat	orized to vote on behalt uthority at the request of	f of the producing en f an Agent of the

\*Your signature certifies that you have the authority to take such action and will submit supplementary evidence of such authority a the request of an agent of the Secretary of Agriculture. The information provided in this ballot is required to determine voter eligibility and vote of California, Arizona and New Mexico producers.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

#### PISTACHIO BALLOT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Agricultural Marketing Service Specialty Crops Program Marketing Field Office 2202 Monterey Street, Suite 102-B Fresno, CA 93721

PLACE STAMP HERE POST OFFICE WILL NOT DELIVER WITHOUT POSTAGE

Referendum Agent USDA-AMS-SCP-MFO 2202 MONTEREY STREET, SUITE 102-B FRESNO, CA 93721

♦FOLD HERE, TAPE AT THE TOP, AND MAIL PROMPTLY ♦

PISTACHIO BALLOT

# VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PRODUCER ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

I.	<b>VOTING PERIOD:</b> (, <b>20</b> ) through (, <b>20</b> ).		
II.	<b>REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD:</b> (, 20) through (, 20).		
III.	PRODUCTION AREA: The States of California, Arizona and New Mexico.		
IV.	PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: Any person who currently produces pistachios in any or all of the States of California, Arizona, or New Mexico, and produced such pistachios during the representative period (, 20) through (, 20), is entitled to cast one ballot. Each separate business unit, partnership, family enterprise, corporation, association, estate, or firm is entitled to one vote.		
	"Producer" means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit who:		
	<ul> <li>Owns and farms land producing pistachios for market;</li> <li>is a renter or tenant of a farm producing pistachios for market; or</li> <li>is a landlord who received from a renter or tenant a portion of the production as rent for the land on which pistachios were produced for market. (A landlord who rents for cash, a lienholder or a person having only a financial interest in the crop is NOT eligible to vote.)</li> </ul>		
v.	OW TO VOTE:		
	A. Indicate your vote by placing an 'X' in the appropriate box.		
	B. Certify your pistachio production by listing the pounds of pistachios produced for market by you (or by the producer for whom this Ballot is cast) during the period (, 20) through (, 20).		
	C. Print or type your name, phone number, business name, and address.		
	D. Proxy voting is not authorized. If ballot is cast by an officer or employee of a partnership, corporation, or other business unit, check box to indicate your business designation, and sign to indicate authority to vote. If partnership or joint venture, list names of partners.		
	E. Sign below the certification. Incomplete or unsigned ballots cannot be counted. Fold your ballot so the Referendum Agent's address is displayed, seal with tape and mail to Referendum Agent, USDA-AMS-SCP-MFO, 2202 MONTEREY ST, SUITE 102-B, FRESNO, CA 93721. For further information, please call () or () at ().		
	Ballots must be postmarked by (, 20).		