



January 4, 2022

TO: Eligible Independent Producers of California Prunes
FROM: California Prune Board/Prune Marketing Committee
RE: Independent Producer Nomination/Election Process - 2022

This is an election year for both the California Prune Board and the Prune Marketing Committee and we are inviting all eligible independent producers to attend the **virtual** nomination meetings held in January and February 2022 (details below). Rosters of current members/alternates completing their 2020-2022 term can be found on the next page.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) manages the process for the California Prune Board’s portion of the election and our office handles the PMC portion. Notices for both are included with this cover letter.

- **BOARD:** Notice of 2022 California Prune Board Nomination Meetings letter, dated January 4, 2022 (this explains the nomination/election process for the **Board**)
- **PMC:** Notice of 2022 Prune Marketing Committee Nomination Meeting letter, dated January 4, 2022 (this explains the nomination/election process for the **PMC**)
- **PMC:** USDA letter with subject line “Upcoming Prune Marketing Committee Elections,” dated January 4, 2022

All meetings are listed below and will be held **virtually** this year. Contact Becky at bpoland@californiaprunes.org to share your email address for the zoom link or call 916-749-3442. Check out our website for more information at: <https://californiaprunes.org/meetings/>. We look forward to having you join us.

NOMINATION MEETING SCHEDULE (See next page for district boundaries)

DISTRICT(S)	DATE	LOCATION – All meetings are virtual	MEETING TIME
2, 3 & 6	Thursday, January 27, 2022	Type this into browser: https://bit.ly/districts236	2:00 – 3:00pm PT
7	Tuesday, February 1, 2022	Type this into browser: https://bit.ly/district7	2:00 – 3:00pm PT
1, 4 & 5	Thursday, February 3, 2022	Type this into browser: https://bit.ly/districts145	2:00 – 3:00pm PT

INDEPENDENT PRODUCER REPRESENTATIVES COMPLETING THEIR 2020-2022 TERM

PRUNE MARKETING COMMITTEE		
DISTRICT	MEMBER	ALTERNATE
1	Mike Vereschagin	Richard Conte
2	Pete Righero	VACANT
3	Sandra Mitchell	David Waters
4	Curt Eller	David Wohletz
5	Dan Bozzo	Matt Bozzo
6	Ranvir Singh	Tirath Johal
7	Nick Cubre	VACANT
At-Large	Jon Lavy	VACANT

CALIFORNIA PRUNE BOARD		
DISTRICT	MEMBER	FLOATING ALTs
1	Mike Vereschagin	Curt Eller Joe Mitchell David Waters
2	Pete Righero	
3	Sandra Mitchell	
4	David Wohletz	
5	Dan Bozzo	
6	Ranvir Singh	
7	Nick Cubre	
At-Large	Matt Bozzo	

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

(unchanged from the 2020-22 term)

District No. 1	<i>The counties of Colusa, Glenn, Solano and Yolo</i>
District No. 2	<i>That portion of Sutter County north of the line extending along Franklin Road easterly to the Yuba County line and westerly to the Colusa County line</i>
District No. 3	<i>That portion of Sutter county south of the line extending along Franklin Road easterly to the Yuba County line and westerly to the Colusa County line</i>
District No. 4	<i>The counties of Alpine, Amador, Del Norte, El Dorado, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama and Trinity</i>
District No. 5	<i>Butte County</i>
District No. 6	<i>Yuba County</i>
District No. 7	<i>The counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Tulare and all other counties not included in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6</i>

MAP OF INDEPENDENT CALIFORNIA PRUNE PRODUCERS VOTING DISTRICTS

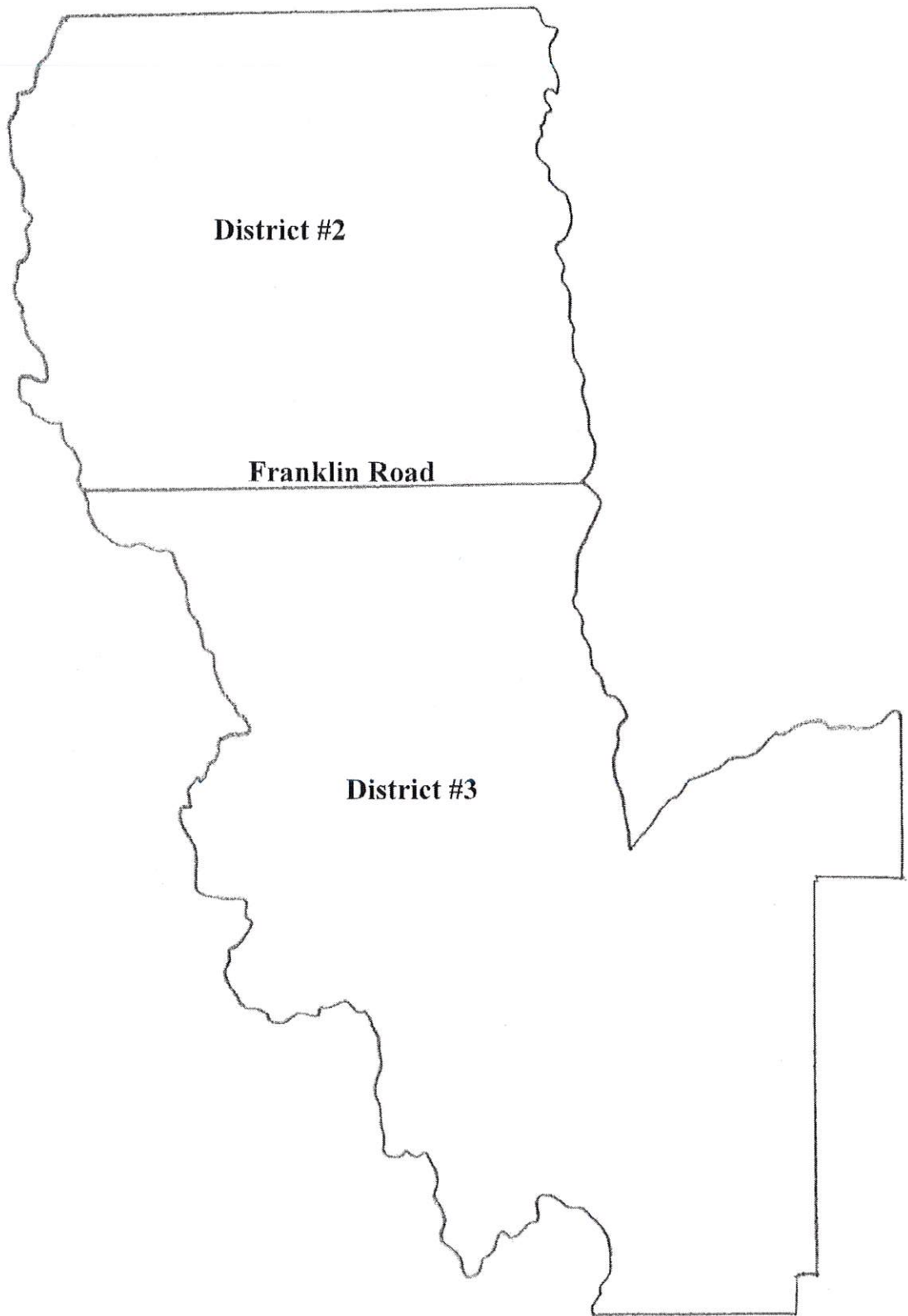


According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0178. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 12 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 of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SUTTER COUNTY BOUNDARIES BETWEEN DISTRICTS #2 AND #3





January 4, 2022

**NOTICE OF THE 2022 NOMINATION MEETINGS
FOR THE CALIFORNIA PRUNE BOARD**

TO THE INDEPENDENT PRUNE PRODUCER ADDRESSED:

The term of office for all members and alternate members of the California Prune Board (Board) will expire on May 31, 2022. Therefore, in accordance with the Marketing Order for California Prunes (Marketing Order), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) is calling district meetings for the purpose of receiving nominations of independent producers qualified and interested in serving on the Board for the next two-year term of office beginning on June 1, 2022 and continuing through May 31, 2024.

A complete schedule of the nomination meetings and a roster listing the current members and alternate members of the Board is enclosed. The table below summarizes the independent producer positions on the Board that will be filled through this year’s nomination and preference voting process:

Independent Producer - MEMBERS	Independent Producer - ALTERNATES
7 Members (one from each district)	4 Floating Alternates (may be from any district)

There will be a total of **seven** independent producer **member positions on the Board** for the 2022-2024 term of office. These positions will be filled to represent each of the seven districts defined in the Marketing Order. Since the tonnage of prunes handled by the independent processors as first handlers did not exceed the tonnage of prunes handled by cooperative processors as a first handler in the preceding crop year, the At-large position will not be applicable in the 2022-24 term of office.

There will be a total of **four** independent producer **alternate member positions on the Board** for the 2022-2024 term of office, and these positions will continue to be classified as “floating alternates”. This means that at Board meetings, such alternates will be able to serve in the absence of any independent producer member rather than just for one

(over)



assigned member. These positions will be filled by independent producers without reference to a specific district in the state. Nominations for alternate member positions on the Board will be received at each district meeting, and four of the nominated candidates will be appointed through the subsequent preference voting process conducted by mail. This “floating alternate” concept will also continue to be used for the processor sector represented on the Board.

All independent producers of prunes in California are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in these meetings. To be eligible to make nominations in a district or to be eligible to be appointed to represent a particular district, a person must be an independent producer of prunes in such district. Proxy nomination are not permitted. Entities with production in more than one district must choose only one district in which they wish to make nominations. Entities owned by the same person count as separate entities as long as each operation has its own legal standing and representative at the meeting. Producers who wish to nominate a person to serve on the Board should determine the candidate’s eligibility and willingness to serve prior to the nomination meeting.

Representatives of the Marketing Order will be present at each meeting to receive nominations and answer questions regarding the activities and operations of the Marketing Order. **All meetings will be held virtually this year.** At each meeting, Donn Zea, Executive Director of the California Prune Board, will provide opening comments and facilitate a question-and-answer period. All California prune producers are welcome to attend the meetings and to participate in the discussions, however, only independent producers (growers other than cooperative members) may participate in the nomination portion of the meetings.

Following the close of the nomination procedures, the names of qualified candidates will be printed on ballots and mailed to all independent prune producers for preference voting.

If you have questions about the nomination process or meetings, please contact Becky Poland, Executive Coordinator of the California Prune Board, at (916) 749-3442, or David Hillis with the Department’s Marketing Branch at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,



Joe Monson, Branch Chief
Marketing Branch

Enclosure



January 4, 2022

NOTICE OF 2022 PRUNE MARKETING COMMITTEE NOMINATION MEETING

Independent producer nomination meetings will be held **virtually** in January and February 2022 to nominate producer candidates to run for appointment as members and alternates on the Prune Marketing Committee (PMC) for a two-year term beginning June 1, 2022. Following the meetings, the names of the nominated candidates will be placed on a ballot and a mail vote will be conducted among eligible independent producers to provide the USDA recommendations on candidates for appointment. The table below summarizes the independent producer positions on the PMC that will be filled through this year’s nomination and election process.

	Independent Producer - MEMBERS	Independent Producer - ALTERNATES
PMC	7 members (one from each defined district)	7 alternates (one from each defined district)

The independent producer **member and alternate seats on the PMC** will be **seven each** for the upcoming term of office. All candidates for these positions, as well as the persons doing the nominating, must be independent prune producers in the current crop year from their respective districts as defined below.

The PMC offers the opportunity for all segments of the California Prune industry to be represented and invites qualified women, minorities, persons with physical disabilities, persons who have never served on the PMC or the CDPB, organic or non-conventional growers and small growers (less than \$1,000,000 in annual sales) to attend **this year’s virtual** district nomination meetings and to express their interest in membership. All California Prune producers are welcome to attend the meetings and participate in the discussions, but only eligible independent producers (growers other than cooperative members) may participate in the nomination portion of the meetings.

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

(which remain unchanged from the current term)

- District No. 1** The counties of Colusa, Glenn, Solano and Yolo
- District No. 2** That portion of Sutter County **north** of the line extending along Franklin Road easterly to the Yuba County line and westerly to the Colusa County line
- District No. 3** That portion of Sutter county **south** of the line extending along Franklin Road easterly to the Yuba County line and westerly to the Colusa County line
- District No. 4** The counties of Alpine, Amador, Del Norte, El Dorado, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama and Trinity
- District No. 5** Butte County District
- District No. 6** Yuba County
- District No. 7** The counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Tulare and all other counties not included in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Specialty
Crops
Program

California
Marketing
Field Office

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Suite 102-B
Fresno, CA 93721-3129

January 4, 2022

TO: California Prune Growers and Handlers

FROM: Gary D. Olson, Regional Director *GDO*
Western Region Field Office

SUBJECT: Upcoming Prune Marketing Committee Elections

The Prune Marketing Committee (Committee), which locally administers the Federal marketing order for California prunes, is conducting elections to seat a new Committee for the term of office beginning on June 1, 2022. The Department of Agriculture (USDA), which oversees the administration of the marketing order, would like to encourage all independent growers and handlers to participate in Committee elections. In an effort to enhance the diversity of the Committee, USDA also encourages the following types of individuals to seek positions on the Committee: women, minorities, people with disabilities, people who have not previously served on the Committee, organic or non-conventional growers, and growers and handlers defined by the Small Business Administration as “small businesses” (annual sales of less than \$1,000,000 for growers and less than \$30,000,000 for handlers).

Having multiple people from the same family on a committee in different positions is inconsistent with our goal of having diverse marketing order committees. Therefore, USDA will no longer appoint multiple members of the same family unless special circumstances exist. For these reasons, USDA may not select all committee nominees, which could ultimately result in empty seats and the need to conduct further nominations to fill those seats.

The Committee is comprised of 22 members and 22 alternate members representing independent prune handlers and growers, as well as those affiliated with cooperative marketing associations of producers. The Committee meets periodically in Sacramento to review marketing order issues and makes recommendations to USDA regarding various marketing order programs. Although many of the activities under the Federal program were suspended in 2005, the Committee continues to meet a few times a year to review program operations.

If you are interested in increasing your involvement in the California prune industry, we encourage you to consider running for a position on the Committee. If you would like more information on the marketing order or in serving on the Committee, please contact Donn Zea, Prune Marketing Committee, at (916) 749-3442, or Jeffery Rymer, USDA, at (559) 487-5901.