



January 14, 2022

**NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT PRUNE PROCESSORS' NOMINATION MEETING**

Prune Marketing Committee/California Prune Board

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 10:00am PT

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88648355235>

**TO: INDEPENDENT PRUNE PROCESSORS**

The Chairs of the Prune Marketing Committee and the California Prune Board have called a nomination meeting of independent prune processors to be held at the time and place noted above. This meeting will be held **virtually** this year. All meeting information can be found on our website at <https://californiaprunes.org/meetings/>.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 993.28 (c) of Marketing Agreement No. 110, as Amended, and Order No. 993, as Amended, Regulating the Handling of Dried Prunes Produced in California, the purpose of this meeting is to select nominees for the member and alternate member positions on the **Prune Marketing Committee** for appointment by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to serve a two-year term beginning **June 1, 2022**. As well, the selection of member and floating alternate nominees for appointment by the California Secretary of Food and Agriculture to represent independent processors on the **California Prune Board** for the two-year term beginning **June 1, 2022** pursuant to provisions of Article II, Section B of the Marketing Order for California Dried Prunes will be held at this meeting.

Other than **Mariani Packing Company** and **Sacramento Packing Company** (who, being the two largest independent processors will individually name in writing their own nominees for the member and alternate member positions), two members plus two alternate members for the PMC and CPB will be selected as nominees to represent all independent prune processors, since the tonnage of prunes handled by the independent processors as first handlers exceeded the tonnage of prunes handled by all cooperative marketing associations as a first handler in the preceding crop year. One of those two member/alternate positions on the PMC and the Board will be decided between **Cal Fruit International, Shoei Foods, and Taylor Brothers Farms, Inc.** as the next three largest processors. The second of those two member/alternate positions on the PMC and the Board will be determined by the remaining eligible processors. (See following list of independent processors who are eligible, based upon their handling of prunes received from producers and dehydrators during the **2020** crop year. These are listed alphabetically within each grouping, not necessarily in the order of tonnage handled.)

**Each independent prune processor (other than Mariani Packing and Sacramento Packing) is urged to have an eligible representative present at this virtual meeting authorized to act on its behalf. Note that in order to participate, the listed processor must also be active in the current crop year and will be required to so certify.**

As you know, the Board and Committee offer the opportunity for all segments of the California Prune industry to be represented and welcome eligible women, minorities, persons with physical disabilities, persons who have never served on the PMC or CDPB, organic or non-conventional processors and "small" processors (annual sales less than \$30 million), as candidates. Please keep this in mind as you select your nominees for member and alternate and see attached letter from the USDA that is specific to nominations for the Prune Marketing Committee.

Individuals with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact Becky at (916) 749-3442 or contact us through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339, at least five business days prior to the meeting date. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

My best-

Becky Poland

cc: USDA, CDFA, PMC Chair, CPB Chair

**LIST OF INDEPENDENT PROCESSORS / REPRESENTATION  
on the  
Prune Marketing Committee/California Prune Board  
For the term June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2024**

	PROCESSOR NAME	SEATS/REPRESENTATION
<b>Two largest:</b>	MARIANI PACKING CO., INC.	1
	SACRAMENTO PACKING CO	1
<b>Next three largest:</b>	CAL FRUIT INTERNATIONAL	} 1
	SHOEI FOODS	
	TAYLOR BROS FARMS	
<b>All others:</b>	CA PACKING CO.	} 1
	CAL PRUNE & NUT LLC	
	CAL RANCH, INC.	
	DAVISBROS TRADING LLC	
	DOREA ORCHARDS	
	GOLDEN VALLEY FRUIT	
	HILL VIEW PACKING CO, INC.	
	JB CUSICK CO.	
	KALKAT FRUIT & NUT CO.	
	MIKI ORCHARDS	
	NATIONAL RAISIN CO.	
	RPC PACKING	
	SOWDEN BROTHERS	
	STAPLETON-SPENCE PACKING CO.	
	SUN-MAID GROWERS OF CA	
SUTTER BUTTES MERCANTILE LLC		
SUTTER FOODS		
WILBUR PACKING CO.		

Topic: Independent Processors' Nomination Meeting  
 Time: Feb 8, 2022 10:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88648355235>

Meeting ID: 886 4835 5235  
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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Specialty  
Crops  
Program

California  
Marketing  
Field Office

2202 Monterey St.  
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.