



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

October 8, 2026

NOMINATION MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR THE CALIFORNIA MELON RESEARCH BOARD

TO THE CALIFORNIA MELON PRODUCER OR HANDLER ADDRESSED:

The term of office for all members and alternate members of the California Melon Research Board (Board) will expire on December 31, 2026. Therefore, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) is calling nomination meetings for the purpose of receiving nominations of melon producers and handlers who are qualified and interested in serving on the Board for the next three-year term of office, beginning on January 1, 2027 and continuing through December 31, 2029.

The nomination meetings are scheduled to be held remotely via Zoom videoconference and teleconference on **October 28, 2026, beginning at 9 a.m.** Please note, there will be no physical meeting locations this year for attendees to participate. Additional information about the nomination meetings, including details for joining the remote meeting and the geographic boundaries of each producer district, is enclosed with this notice. Additionally, a roster listing the members and alternate members currently appointed to the Board is enclosed with this notice for your information.

In order to be eligible to provide nominations during one of the producer district nomination meetings, or to be nominated to represent a particular producer district, a person must be a producer of melons in the respective district. Entities with production in more than one district must choose only one district in which to make nominations. In order to be eligible to provide nominations during the handler nomination meeting, or to be nominated to a handler position, a person must be affiliated with a California melon handler entity. Handler nominations will be received on an at-large statewide basis, without regard to districts.

Proxy nominations are not permitted. 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. If you wish to nominate a person to serve on the Board, please determine the candidate's eligibility and willingness to serve prior to the nomination meeting.

During each producer district nomination meeting, if there are more producers nominated than there are available positions in a given district, a preference voting process will be conducted among the eligible producers attending the meeting to determine the preferred nominees to be recommended to the Department for appointment to the Board. Likewise, during handler nomination meeting, if there are more handlers nominated than there are available positions, a

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preference voting process will be conducted among the eligible handlers attending the meeting to determine the preferred nominees to be recommended to the Department for appointment to the Board.

We strongly encourage you to participate in this important process of nominating your industry representatives. If you have any questions regarding the nomination meetings or the activities of the California Melon Research Program, please contact JD Allen, Manager of the California Melon Research Board, at (559) 591-0435, or Miranda McBride with the Department's Marketing Branch at (916) 900-5018.

To access an electronic copy of this notice with embedded hyperlinks, please visit our website www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt and click on "Notices to Industry".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Monson".

Joe Monson, Branch Chief
Marketing Branch

Enclosures

CALIFORNIA MELON RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD

Terms for January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2029

NOMINATION MEETING STARTS VIA ZOOM AT:

9:00 AM on Wednesday, October 28, 2026

ZOOM: <https://bit.ly/4j9hqth>

Phone-In: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 810 9799 1697

Passcode: 925711

Producer District A – Southern California District

(the counties of Imperial, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura and Santa Barbara)

Nominations for:

2 producer members and 2 producer alternates

Producer District B (Kern-Huron District)

(the counties of Kern, San Luis Obispo, Kings, Tulare, Inyo, and the area in Fresno County south of Mt. Whitney and its extensions)

Nominations for:

1 producer member and 1 producer alternate

Producer District C (Mendota-Firebaugh District)

(the counties of Monterey, San Benito, Madera and Mono and the remainder of Fresno County)

Nominations for:

1 producer member and 1 producer alternate

Producer District D (Los Banos-Northern California)

(the counties of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Merced, Mariposa, and all counties north thereof)

Nominations for:

1 producer member and 1 producer alternate

Handler-At-Large

(All handler positions are statewide at-large positions without regard to districts.)

Nominations for:

5 handler members and 5 handler alternates



CALIFORNIA MELON Research Board

2024-2026 ROSTER

Term of Office: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026

DIST	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
A	ANDREW FISHER Fisher Ranch BART FISHER Fisher Ranch	BRAD ROBINSON Robinson Farms CAMERON TATE Five Crowns
B	JAD CRUSHA Tom Bengard	STEPHEN SMITH Turlock Fruit Co
C	DAN MCCURDY D&V McCurdy Farms	NEILL CALLIS Turlock Fruit Co
D	JIM VINCENT Jim Vincent Farming	RENATO SERRANO Nickel Family LLC
HANDLER @ LARGE	PAT TUCKER Legend Produce JOE DEL BOSQUE Del Bosque Farms GARRETT PATRICIO Westside Produce ALEC SMITH Turlock Fruit Co LANCE LEVAKE ATB Packing	MILAS RUSSELL Legend Produce JOSE RIVAS Del Bosque Farms STEVE PATRICIO Westside Produce MATT MARING T&M Farms BRIAN WRIGHT Del Mar Farms
STAFF	Kerry Mauck UC Liaison Dept of Entomology, UC Riverside 951-827-5444 kerry.mauck@ucr.edu JD Allen Manager jdallen@tabcomp.com	Miranda McBride miranda.mcbride@cdfa.ca.gov CDFA Marketing Branch, 1220 "N" Street Sacramento CA 95814 916-261-5459 Nathan Sano Assistant Manager nathan@tabcomp.com
	RESEARCH COMMITTEE Joe Del Bosque – Chairman Jad Crusha Bart Fisher Dan McCurdy Alec Smith	WEBSITE COMMITTEE Andrew Fisher – Chairman Jose Rivas Milas Russell III Alec Smith

Pat Tucker serves as Ex-Officio on all Committees

September 30, 2026