



2202 Monterey Street
Suite 102 B
Fresno, CA 93721

January 30, 2023

TO: California Almond Handlers

FROM: Gary D. Olson *GDO*
Regional Director
Western Region Branch

SUBJECT: Upcoming Almond Board of California Elections

The Almond Board of California (Board), which locally administers the Federal marketing order for California almonds, will conduct elections in early 2023 to seat new members for the term of office beginning on August 1, 2023. The positions to be filled include one independent grower member, two independent handler members, one cooperative grower member, and one cooperative handler member and their respective alternate member positions are up for nomination. Additionally, one independent grower alternate position that was left vacant during the 2022-23 election cycle will be filled for a total of nine seats. The Department of Agriculture (USDA), which oversees the administration of the marketing order, encourages all independent handlers to participate in Board elections. In an effort to enhance the diversity of the Board, USDA also encourages women, minorities, and people with disabilities to seek positions on the Board. Attached is a letter from AMS administrator Bruce Summers regarding the importance of diversity on boards and committees.

As you may know, the Board is composed of 10 members and 10 alternate members representing independent almond handlers and growers, as well as those affiliated with cooperative association of producers. The Board meets periodically to review marketing order issues and make recommendations to USDA regarding various marketing order programs. Through the marketing order, the almond industry implements various research programs, advertising and promotion programs, food quality and safety, and other programs. These programs are designed to improve production techniques, build demand for almonds, assure product quality and safety, and provide information to industry members, with the overall goal of improving grower returns.

If you are interested in increasing your involvement in the California almond industry, we encourage you to consider running for a position on the Board. To qualify to serve as an independent handler member, you must own, or be an employee of, a business entity that handles almonds, but is not a cooperative handler.

Detailed information concerning the election process is being provided to you by Board staff. If you would like more information on the marketing order or in serving on the Board, please contact Toni Arellano, Almond Board of California, at (209) 343-3220, or Peter Sommers, USDA, at (559) 538-1670.



1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 2055-S, STOP 0201
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

January 24, 2023

TO: Specialty Crops Industry

SUBJECT: Nominations

At the center of each Research and Promotion or Marketing Order Program is the board or committee members that strengthen the position of the commodity and maintain and expand their markets and uses. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), provides oversight of these programs to help ensure fiscal accountability and program integrity.

Many of our programs still report limited industry participation in the nomination process. Therefore, I want to encourage all industry members to consider taking a more active role, whether that is: being nominated as a member or alternate; submitting a nomination; volunteering for a subcommittee; or attending a meeting for the first time.

It is AMS' policy to ensure that diversity of the boards, councils and committees we oversee reflect the diversity of industry in terms of: the experience of members; methods of production and distribution; marketing strategies; and other distinguishing factors including, but not limited to, individuals from historically underserved communities that will bring different perspectives and ideas to the table. Throughout the entire nomination process, programs must conduct extensive outreach paying particular attention to the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the members to represent the interest of a diverse population within the industry and the population served.

Detailed information concerning the nomination process is available to you from your program staff or USDA's marketing specialist. You can also learn more about our programs and find contacts at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion> or <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/moa>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Summers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bruce Summers
Administrator