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TO: California Almond Handlers

FROM: Barry Broadbent *BB*
Acting Branch Chief
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 2024 to seat new members for the term of office beginning on August 1, 2024. The positions to be filled include two independent grower members, two independent handler members, and one cooperative grower member and their respective alternates. 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.

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.