

April 4, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Related to a Petition to Terminate the Quota Implementation Plan

Hearing Date: May 5, 2025

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) has scheduled a public hearing to receive comments from the California market milk producers and the general public on a petition titled "Petition to Terminate the QIP #5" resubmitted by Stop QIP to terminate the Quota Implementation Plan (Plan or QIP). The proposal in the petition was to ask the Secretary to call a referendum to immediately terminate the QIP.

The referendum process will begin with a public hearing scheduled as follows:

Date and Time	Location
Monday May 5, 2025 Beginning at 10:00 a.m.	Stanislaus County Ag Commissioner's Office Harvest Hall – Room D&E 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite B Modesto, CA 95358

^{*}No teleconference option will be available.

BACKGROUND

On August 6, 2024, the Department received a petition to terminate the QIP entitled "Petition to Terminate the QIP #5". A copy of the petition may be viewed here: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dairy/pdf/notices/2024_08_06 Petition to Terminate the QIP 5. pdf. The Department performed a review of the petition signatures and their respective reported volume and determined that the twenty-five (25%) threshold had been achieved. Per standard procedures, the petition was referred to the Producer Review Board (PRB) for consideration. At the meeting held on December 17, 2024, the PRB reviewed and

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discussed the merits of the petition and passed a motion recommending to the Secretary that the petition go to an industry referendum. After due consideration, the Secretary reviewed the PRB's recommendation and approved it.

The referendum process will begin with a hearing to give producers the opportunity to provide input about the proposal.

HEARING PROCEDURE AND PARTICIPATION

All affected California market milk producers and other interested persons are invited to present their testimony about the proposal to terminate the Quota Implementation Plan during the public hearing. Witnesses (individuals interested in speaking during the hearing) will be able to sign-up to do so upon arrival; the hearing transcript, comments, and materials presented will be combined to form the official hearing record. The Hearing Officer will determine the order for calling on witnesses; each witness will be sworn in and will be asked to identify themselves by name and affiliation.

Each witness will be able to speak for up to 20 minutes. Hearing panel members may ask questions from witnesses to clarify the input received. The hearing officer will allow questions by members of the audience about information entered to the record by the Department; the questions must be directly pertinent to the call of the hearing. Additionally, any member of the audience may submit questions to the hearing officer for possible use by the hearing panel. Questions from witnesses must be related to their testimony and directly pertinent to the call of the hearing.

Questions about the hearing, referendum or the Quota Administration Program should be directed to either David Ko or Patrick Mellady at 916-900-5012. Included with this notice is a Producer Record Update Form. Please use this form to update the Department of any changes to your dairies' contact information.

Sincerely.

Kathy Diaz, Director

Marketing Services Division

Attachment