



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 2077-S, STOP 0235
Washington, D.C. 20250-0235

Mrs. Debbie Powell
President and General Manager
Raisin Administrative Committee
2445 Capitol Street, Suite 200
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Mrs. Powell:

We appreciate that the Raisin Administrative Committee (Committee) considered our request to return to making the shipment and acquisition reports available in its normal course of business at its meeting on June 24, 2020. We understand that the Committee deliberated this issue rigorously but ultimately voted to continue to withhold the reports, at least in part.

Per the Committee's recommendation, the acquisition report, though collected weekly, would be made available quarterly, and the shipment report, though collected monthly, would be made available annually. The Agricultural Marketing Service will continue to seek these reports as we respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for them.

Section 989.95 of the marketing order regulating the handling of raisins grown in California authorizes the Secretary to disapprove of every decision, determination, or other act of the Committee, rendering them null and void. Such disapprovals are rare, but I believe it is in the best interests of the Secretary and the industry to disapprove of the action taken on June 24, 2020, to partly withhold the acquisition and shipment reports. We, therefore, request that you return to making these reports, and all reports, available in the normal course of business, such as publishing them on your website and distributing them to industry members.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Terry Vawter, Regional Director of our California Marketing Field Office, at (559) 487-5905 or Terry.Vawter@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

SONIA JIMENEZ
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Sonia N. Jimenez
Deputy Administrator
Specialty Crops Programs