

RAISIN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

ADMINISTERING THE FEDERAL MARKETING
AGREEMENT AND ORDER REGULATING THE
HANDLING OF CALIFORNIA RAISINS

Telephone: 559-225-0520
Fax: 559-225-0652
Email: info@raisins.org
Website: www.raisins.org

November 3, 2023

TO: All Independent Raisin Producers

SUBJECT: Nomination meetings for independent producer seats.

Independent producers' member/alternate seats for the 2024/2026 RAC term based on deliveries for the 2022/23 crop year will be a total of **Twenty-one (21) seats**.

District 1 – North of Fresno County will have 1 member / 1 alternate

District 2 – South of Fresno County will have 1 member / 1 alternate

District 3 – Fresno County will have 19 members / 19 alternates

Nominations for independent producer seats will be accepted for a full 60 minutes as follows:

District 1 – **Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**
North of Fresno County
Virtual Meeting
Visit www.raisins.org to join the meeting
Dial-in Number: +1 (646) 749-3122; **Access Code:** 541-570-373

District 2 – **Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**
South of Fresno County
Virtual Meeting
Visit www.raisins.org to join the meeting
Dial-in Number: +1 (408) 650-3123; **Access Code:** 461-973-861

District 3 – **Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**
Fresno County
In Person & Virtually
RAC Conference Room - 2445 Capitol Street, Suite 200 Fresno, CA
&
Virtual Meeting
Visit www.raisins.org to join the meeting
Dial-in Number: +1 (646) 749-3122; **Access Code:** 785-719-237

Nominations will only be accepted from qualified persons attending the meeting. (If you are being nominated, it is your option to submit a brief, one-paragraph statement about yourself and your interest in serving on the RAC. This information is needed by 5:00 p.m. on November 22nd to prepare the ballots.)

Subsequent to these meetings:

Ballots will be mailed to all independent producers recording 2022/23 deliveries for them to vote for independent producers to represent them on the RAC. To qualify, to nominate, and vote (989.129) as

The Raisin Administrative Committee is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

2445 Capitol Street, Suite 200 • Fresno CA 93721-2236



an independent grower member, you must own, or be a person who is engaged in a proprietary capacity that produced grapes that have been or will be made into raisins during the current crop year (2023/24). To qualify to serve (989.27) as an independent grower member you must be actively engaged in a business of the group, which he/she represents in either his/her own behalf, or as an officer, agent, or an employee of a business entity, which produced grapes that have been or will be made into raisins during the current crop year. Additionally, to qualify as an independent grower, you must not be a member of the RBA, Sun-Maid, nor sold your raisins for cash to Sun-Maid during the current crop year.

The RAC offers the opportunity for all segments of the California raisin industry to be represented and invites qualified women, minorities, and physically challenged candidates to attend district nomination meetings and express their intent in membership. We ask that you be mindful of the USDA's policy on Civil Rights and consider all eligible persons for membership on the Committee.

Questionnaires will be provided to those nominated, by USDA, either by email or mail.

RAISIN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE



Debbie Powell
President / General Manager

DP/mj

cc: Jeremy Sasselli, USDA

Attachment: USDA Diversity Letter (2pgs)

Persons requiring reasonable accommodations or who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, language translation or interpretation, etc.) should contact Debbie Powell at 559-225-0520.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Specialty
Crops
Program

California
Marketing
Field Office

2202 Monterey St.
Suite 102-B
Fresno, CA 93721-3129

November 1, 2023

TO: California Raisin Growers

FROM: Gary D. Olson, Regional Director *GDO*
Western Region Field Office

SUBJECT: Upcoming Raisin Administrative Committee Elections

The Raisin Administrative Committee (RAC), which locally administers the Federal marketing order for California raisins, will be conducting nominations for members on a new RAC for the 2024-26 term of office. The Department of Agriculture (USDA), which oversees federal marketing orders, encourages eligible women, minorities, and people with disabilities to consider seeking nomination to the RAC, in order to provide a diverse membership. Attached is a letter from Bruce Summers, Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, expressing the importance of diversity on Marketing Order Boards and Committees.

Having multiple people from the same family on a committee in different positions is inconsistent with our goal of having diverse marketing order committees. Therefore, USDA will no longer appoint multiple members of the same family unless special circumstances exist. For these reasons, USDA may not select all committee nominees, which could ultimately result in empty seats and the need to conduct further nominations to fill those seats.

The RAC is composed of 47 members and 47 alternate members, representing the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA), Sun-Maid Growers of California (Sun-Maid), and independent handlers and growers. One member and alternate also represent the public. The RAC meets regularly in Fresno to review marketing order issues and make recommendations to USDA regarding various marketing order programs. Through the Federal marketing order, the raisin industry implements quality control standards, export, and other programs, intended to stabilize markets and enhance grower returns.

To qualify to serve as an independent grower member, you must own, or be an employee of, a business entity which produced grapes that have been or will be made into raisins during the current crop year, and produced grapes that were made into raisins last year. Additionally, you must not be a member of the RBA, Sun-Maid, or have sold your raisins for cash to Sun-Maid. If you are a member of RBA or Sun-Maid, you may wish to contact that organization about serving on the RAC as an RBA or Sun-Maid grower representative.

If you are interested in serving on the RAC, please contact Debbie Powell, RAC President/General Manager, at (559) 225-0520. If you would like more information on the marketing order, please contact Jeremy Sasselli, USDA Marketing Specialist, at (559) 552-3320. The RAC will mail out additional information on the election process shortly.



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