

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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nominated and selected in the same way and with the same qualifications as the member. The members and their alternates shall be selected by the Secretary from nominees submitted by each of the following groups or from other eligible persons belonging to such groups:

(1) Two members to represent cooperative handlers;

(2) Two members to represent independent handlers;

(3) Two members to represent growers who market their walnuts through cooperative handlers;

(4) One member to represent growers who market their walnuts through cooperative handlers or independent handlers, whichever category of such handlers had certified as merchantable more than 50 percent of the kernelweight of all walnuts certified as merchantable by all handlers during the two marketing years preceding the year in which nominations were made—the member representing growers who market their walnuts through independent handlers shall be nominated at large in the State of California;

(5) One member to represent growers from District 1 who market their walnuts through independent handlers; and

(6) One member to represent growers from District 2 who market their walnuts through independent handlers.

(b) The tenth member and alternate shall be selected after the selection of the nine members from the groups specified in paragraph (a) of this section and after the opportunity for such members to nominate the tenth member and alternate. The tenth member and his alternate shall be neither a walnut grower nor a handler.

(c) Grower Districts:

(1) *District 1.* District 1 encompasses the counties in the State of California that lie north of a line drawn on the south boundaries of San Mateo, Alameda, San Joaquin, Calaveras, and Alpine Counties.

(2) *District 2.* District 2 shall consist of all other walnut producing counties in the State of California south of the boundary line set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(3) The Secretary on the basis of a recommendation of the Board or other information may establish different districts within the area of production.

[41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.36 Term of office.

The term of office of Board members, and their alternates shall be for a period of two years ending on June 30 of odd-numbered years, but they shall serve until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

[39 FR 35329, Oct. 1, 1974, as amended at 41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.37 Nominations.

(a) Nominations on behalf of growers who market their walnuts through cooperative handlers in California shall be submitted on a ballot cast by each such handler for its growers. The vote of each such handler shall be weighted by the kernelweight of the walnuts certified as merchantable during the preceding marketing year for each such handler. The person receiving the highest number of votes for the cooperative grower position shall be the nominee.

(b) Nominations on behalf of independent growers in Group 4, whenever such group represents independent growers and Groups 5 and 6, shall be submitted after ballot by such growers pursuant to an announcement by press releases of the Board to the news media in the walnut producing areas. Such releases shall provide pertinent voting information, including the names of candidates and the location where ballots may be obtained. Ballots shall be accompanied by full instructions as to their markings and mailing and shall include the names of incumbents who are willing to continue serving on the Board and such other candidates as may be proposed pursuant to methods established by the Board with the approval of the Secretary. Each grower in Group 4, whenever such group represents independent growers, and Groups 5 and 6, regardless of the number and location of his walnut orchard(s) shall be entitled to cast only one ballot in the nomination and each vote shall be given equal weight. If the independent grower has orchard(s) in both grower districts he shall advise

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the Board of the district in which he desires to vote. The person receiving the highest number of votes for an independent grower position shall be the nominee.

(c) Nominations for all handler members shall be submitted on ballots mailed by the Board to all handlers in their respective groups. All handlers' votes shall be weighted by the kernelweight of walnuts certified as merchantable by each handler during the preceding marketing year. Each independent handler in California may vote for the independent handler member nominees and their alternates. However, no independent handler shall have more than one person on the Board either as member or alternate member. The person receiving the highest number of votes for an independent and cooperative handler member position shall be the nominee for that position.

(d) The nine members shall nominate one person as member and one person as alternate for the tenth member position. The tenth member and alternate shall be nominated by not less than 6 votes cast by the nine members of the Board.

(e) Nominations in the foregoing manner received by the Board shall be reported to the Secretary on or before June 15 of each odd-numbered year, together with a certified summary of the results of the nominations. If the Board fails to report nominations to the Secretary in the manner herein specified by June 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Secretary may select the members without nomination. If nominations for the tenth member are not submitted by August 1 of any such year, the Secretary may select such member without nomination.

(f) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may change these nomination procedures should the Board determine that a revision is necessary.

[39 FR 35329, Oct. 1, 1974, as amended at 41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.38 Eligibility.

No person shall be selected or continue to serve as a member or alternate to represent one of the groups specified in § 984.35(a)(1) through (6), unless he is engaged in the business he is to represent,

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or represents, either in his own behalf or as an officer or employee of the business unit engaged in such business. Also, each member or alternate member representing growers in District 1 or District 2 shall be a grower, or officer or employee of the group he is to represent.

[41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.39 Qualify by acceptance.

Each person selected by the Secretary as a member or alternate of the Board shall, prior to serving, qualify by filing with the Secretary a written acceptance as soon as practicable after being notified of such selection.

[39 FR 35330, Oct. 1, 1974, as amended at 41 FR 31543, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.40 Alternate.

(a) An alternate for a member of the Board shall act in the place and stead of such member in his absence or in the event of his death, removal, resignation, or disqualification, until a successor for his unexpired term has been selected and has qualified.

(b) In the event any member of the Board and his alternate are both unable to attend a meeting of the Board, any alternate for any other member representing the same group as the absent member may serve in the place of the absent member, or in the event such other alternate cannot attend, or there is no such other alternate, such member, or in the event of his disability or a vacancy, his alternate may designate, subject to the disapproval of the Secretary, a temporary substitute to attend such meeting. At such meeting such temporary substitute may act in the place of such member. For the purposes of this paragraph, a cooperative handler group and a cooperative grower group shall be considered the same group.

[27 FR 9094, Sept. 13, 1962, as amended at 41 FR 31543, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.41 Vacancy.

Any vacancy occasioned by the removal, resignation, disqualification, or death of any member or alternate, or any need to select a successor through failure of any person selected as a member or alternate to qualify, shall