

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS SC-18-0056; SC18-981-4]

Notice of Request for Approval of New Information Collection for Almonds Grown in California (Marketing Order No. 981)

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval for ballots and a petition form used to collect nominations of members and alternates to serve on the Board. Once approved, the forms would be merged with other forms the Board and AMS uses to collect information under Federal Marketing Order No. 981, Almonds Grown in California.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 13, 2018.

Additional Information: Contact Andrew Hatch, Supervisory Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or Email: andrew.hatch@ams.usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Richard Lower, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or Email: richard.lower@ams.usda.gov.

Comments: Comments are welcome and should reference OMB No. 0581-NEW and the Marketing Order for Almonds Grown in California,

Marketing Order No. 981, and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. Comments may be submitted by mail to the Docket Clerk, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0237, Room 1406-S, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or submitted online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours or they can be viewed at www.regulations.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Almonds Grown in California, Marketing Order No. 981.

OMB Number: 0581-NEW.

Expiration Date of Approval: This is a NEW collection.

Type of Request: Approval of New Information Collection.

Abstract: Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (AMAA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crop industries can create marketing order programs that provide an opportunity for producers, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the marketing order operations and to consider the issuance of regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The Almond Marketing Order, as amended, (7 CFR part 981), hereinafter referred to as the "Order" regulates the handling of almonds grown in California. The Order authorizes research and promotion activities, as well as quality regulations, and provides for the establishment of the Almond Board of California (Board).

The Board locally administers the Order with USDA oversight. Board members and alternates are appointed by USDA from nominations submitted by industry members to the Board. The Board conducts the nomination process with a petition form completed by individual growers and handlers to nominate themselves or others. Industry members then complete ballots to vote on those individuals whose names would be submitted to USDA for consideration for appointment to the Board. Only authorized employees of the Board, and authorized

representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Specialty Crops Program's regional and headquarters staff have access to information provided on the forms.

Requesting public comments on the ballots and petition form described below is part of the process to obtain approval of the forms by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These forms have been designated OMB No. 0581-NEW. The forms include Independent Grower Ballot (ABC-15), Independent Handler Ballot (ABC-16), Cooperative Grower Ballot (ABC-17), Cooperative Handler Ballot (ABC-18), and Grower Petition (ABC-19). Once approved by OMB, USDA will request permission to merge the ballots and petition form into OMB No. 0581-0178 Vegetable and Specialty Crops collection that includes other forms related to the Order.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5.03 minutes per response.

Respondents: Almond producers and handlers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 677.

Estimated Number of Responses: 677.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 56.83 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of the information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 7, 2018.

Bruce Summers,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-19827 Filed 9-11-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

September 7, 2018.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by October 12, 2018 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such person are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Title: Request to Change FEHB Enrollment or to Receive Plan Brochures for Spouse Equity/Temporary Continuation of Coverage Enrollees/Direct Pay Annuitants (DPRS 2809).

OMB Control Number: 0505-0024.

Summary of Collection: Title 5, U.S. Code, Chapter 89, sections 8905 and 8905a specifies the opportunities and conditions under which a retiree, survivor annuitant, separated employee, former spouse or former dependent child of a retiree, employee, or separated employee is eligible to change enrollment in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. DPRS-2809 is completed by the enrollee to make an open season enrollment change.

Need and Use of the Information: The DPRS-2809 is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Finance Center (NFC) for use by separated employees or former spouses and former dependent children of active or separated employees. NFC determines whether all conditions permitting change in enrollment are met and implements the enrollment change. NFC also informs the FEHB carriers of the action. If this information were not collected, NFC could not comply with the provisions of title 5, U.S. Code, Chapter 89.

Description of Respondents: Individuals.

Number of Respondents: 25,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (One time).

Total Burden Hours: 18,750.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-19820 Filed 9-11-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-KS-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Announcement of Disaster Assistance Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of funds availability.

SUMMARY: As part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Public Law 115-123, dated February 9, 2018, the Rural Utilities Service's Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) received \$165,475,000 in supplemental grant funding of which \$163,475,000 is available for repairs to drinking water systems and sewer and solid waste disposal systems impacted by

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. States impacted include: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, and the territories of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.

DATES: Unless otherwise specified in this Notice, applications will be accepted on a continual basis until funds are exhausted.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance, or that are in need of further information, should contact the USDA Rural Development State Office in the State where the project is located. A list of the USDA Rural Development State Offices addresses and telephone numbers is as follows:

Note: Telephone numbers are not toll-free.

Florida/Virgin Islands

USDA Rural Development State Office, 4440 NW 25th Place, P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352) 338-3400/TDD (352) 338-3499.

Georgia

USDA Rural Development State Office, Stephens Federal Building, 355 E Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768, (706) 546-2162/TDD (706) 546-2034.

South Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 765-5163/TDD (803) 765-5697.

Texas

USDA Rural Development State Office, Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 South Main, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742-9700/TDD (254) 742-9712.

Puerto Rico

USDA Rural Development State Office, IBM Building, Suite 601, 654 Munos Rivera Avenue, San Juan, PR 00918-6106, (787) 766-5095/TDD (787) 766-5332.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Main point of contact: Derek Jones, Community Programs Specialist, Water and Environmental Programs, Rural Utilities Service, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Phone: (202) 720-9640.

Fax: (202) 690-0649.

Email: derek.jones@wdc.usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirements associated with the Program, as covered in this Notice, have been approved by the Office of Management Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0572-0121.