



December 5, 2025

## Results of the Referendum to Terminate the Quota Implementation Plan

### TO THE CALIFORNIA MARKET MILK PRODUCER ADDRESSED:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) recently conducted a referendum vote among California Market Milk Producers within the State of California to determine whether the Quota Implementation Plan (QIP) which became effective November 1, 2018, should be terminated effective immediately.

On August 6, 2024, the Department received a petition titled "Petition to Terminate the QIP #5" by Stop QIP. The petition asked that the Secretary call a referendum to immediately terminate the QIP. The Department performed a review of the petition signatures and their respective reported volume and determined that the twenty-five percent (25%) thresholds had been achieved. The petition was then referred to the Producer Review Board (PRB) for consideration. At a Board meeting held on December 17, 2024, the PRB reviewed the petition and passed a motion recommending that the Secretary issue an industry referendum to vote on the petition. The Secretary reviewed the PRB's recommendation and approved it.

The referendum to consider termination started on June 12, 2025. On September 9, 2025, one day prior to the end of the voting period for the referendum, over 50<sup>1</sup> ballots were hand-delivered to the Department by a third party. Visual inspection upon receipt confirmed that the ballots had been removed from their sealed envelopes. Due to these unusual circumstances, the Department decided to reissue the ballots in question and grant a special extension to vote to the producers whose ballots were received open. The voting period for the special extension for the affected producers was October 8, 2025, to October 24, 2025.

### Criteria for Passage:

In order for the termination to be approved, California Food and Agricultural Code Section 62717 specifies that:

Not less than fifty-one percent (51%) of the total number of eligible producers in the state shall have voted in the referendum **AND** one of the following criteria must be satisfied:

- a) Sixty-five percent (**65%**) or more of the **total number of eligible producers** who voted in the referendum who produced fifty-one percent (**51%**) or more of the **total amount of fluid milk produced** in the state during the calendar month next preceding the month commencement of the referendum period (April 2025) by all producers who voted in the referendum approve the plan, **OR**,
- b) Fifty-one percent (**51%**) or more of the **total number of eligible producers** who voted in the referendum who produced sixty-five percent (65%) or more of the **total amount of fluid milk produced** in the state during the calendar month next preceding the month

<sup>1</sup> The Department received a total of 53 ballots. One ballot turned out to be a duplicate, the other ballot was considered valid because it belonged to the person that hand-delivered them. As a result, a total of 51 ballots were reissued.



commencement of the referendum period (April 2025) by all producers who voted in the referendum, approve the plan.

**Summary of the Results of the Referendum Vote:**

Proportion of Eligible Producers that Participated:	<b>63.76%</b>
Proportion of those Eligible Producers Voting in Favor:	<b>40.46%</b>
Proportion of those Eligible Producers Voting in Opposition:	<b>59.54%</b>
Proportion of the Voted Volume Represented by Eligible Producers in Favor:	<b>47.55%</b>
Proportion of the Voted Volume Represented by Eligible Producers in Opposition:	<b>52.45%</b>

In summary, **63.76%** of the **total number of eligible producers** voted in the referendum, and **40.46%** voted in favor, having produced **47.55%** of the **total amount of fluid milk** in the state, among participating producers, in April 2025. Conversely, **59.54%** voted in opposition, and produced **52.45%** of the **total amount of fluid milk** in the state, among participating producers, in April 2025.

**Explanation of Results:**

**63.76%** of the total number of eligible market milk producers in the state voted, therefore the participation criteria **was satisfied**.

Additionally, both elements of EITHER criterion in (a) OR (b) above must also be satisfied:

- a. The producers who accounted for **47.55%** of the fluid milk produced by participants in the referendum, in April 2025 voted IN FAVOR, falling short of the threshold of 51% for the first element by 3.45%; AND **40.46%** of the number of eligible producers voted IN FAVOR, falling short of satisfying the threshold of 65% for the second element by 24.54%. **Therefore, because neither of the two elements were satisfied, the referendum is not approved through this criterion.**
- b. **40.46%** of eligible producers voted IN FAVOR, falling short of satisfying the 51% threshold by 10.54%; AND producers who accounted for **47.55%** of the total number of fluid milk, produced by participants in the referendum, in April 2025 voted IN FAVOR, falling short of satisfying the threshold of 65% by 17.45%. **Therefore, because neither of the two elements were satisfied, the referendum is not approved through this criterion.**

Since the outcome of this referendum does not meet the criteria set forth in Section 62717 of the California Food and Agricultural code, the Quota Implementation Plan will not be terminated. A further summary of the tally results and details on invalidated ballots are included with this notice.

If you have any questions regarding the referendum, please contact the Quota Administration Program at (916) 900-5012.

Sincerely,

Kathy Diaz-Cretu Digitally signed by Kathy Diaz-Cretu  
Date: 2025.12.05 15:38:04 -08'00'

Kathy Diaz, Director  
Marketing Services Division

Enclosure



**Additional Details About Ineligible, Invalid & Special Extension Ballots:**

A total of fourteen (14) ballots were ineligible, twelve (12) were received after the postmark date and two (2) were sent by producers no longer in business. *Ineligible ballot information is not included in the tables below.*

In addition to the fourteen (14) ineligible ballots, a total of eleven (11) ballots were deemed to be invalid. Two (2) ballots were invalid due to a missing signature (including one of the reissued special extension ballots). Nine (9) ballots were deemed invalid due to an unauthorized signature (including two (2) of the reissued special extension ballots). The table below details the results of the invalid ballots. Producers with invalid ballots will be contacted directly to help to rectify the issue for any future referendum.

**Summary of the Results of the Referendum Vote including invalid ballots:**

Proportion of Eligible Producers that participated:	<b>63.76%</b>
Producers that participated, <i>including invalid ballots:</i>	<b>65.21%</b>
Proportion of Producers Voting in Favor, <i>including Invalid Ballots:</i>	<b>40.57%</b>
Proportion of Producers Voting in Opposition, <i>including Invalid Ballots:</i>	<b>59.43%</b>
Proportion of the Voted Volume Represented by Producers in Favor, <i>including Invalid Ballots:</i>	<b>47.53%</b>
Proportion of the Voted Volume Represented by Producers in Opposition, <i>including Invalid Ballots:</i>	<b>52.47%</b>

Of the fifty-one (51) reissued ballots under the special extension, forty-seven (47) were received back to the Department; forty-four (44) were valid and three (3) were invalid (see above).

**Summary of the Results of the Referendum Vote if hand delivered ballots were counted and no special extension was completed:**

Proportion of Eligible Producers that Participated:	<b>63.76%</b>
Producers that participated, <i>w/o Special Extension &amp; w/hand-delivered ballots were counted:</i>	<b>65.74%</b>
Proportion of Producers Voting in Favor, <i>w/o Special Extension &amp; w/hand-delivered ballots were counted:</i>	<b>41.05%</b>
Proportion of Producers Voting in Opposition, <i>w/o Special Extension &amp; w/hand-delivered ballots were counted:</i>	<b>58.95%</b>
Proportion of the Voted Volume Represented by Producers in Favor, <i>w/o Special Extension &amp; w/hand-delivered ballots were counted:</i>	<b>47.85%</b>
Proportion of the Voted Volume Represented by Producers in Opposition, <i>w/o Special Extension &amp; w/hand-delivered ballots were counted:</i>	<b>52.15%</b>

Invalid ballots were immaterial to the outcome of this referendum.





**QUOTA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
TERMINATION REFERENDUM**

**Final Summary**

**Voting Period: June 12, 2025 – September 10, 2025<sup>1</sup>**

**Participation:**

Number of valid ballots received:	482
Total number of producers on the list:	756
Percentage of producers on the list who submitted a valid ballot:	63.76%
Total April 2025 volume (in product pounds) represented by those submitting valid ballots:	2,547,012,100

**In Favor of Terminating the Quota Implementation Plan:**

Number of producers who voted in favor of termination:	195
Percentage of producers who voted in favor of termination:	40.46%
April 2025 product pounds represented by producers voting in favor of termination:	1,211,044,062
Percentage of total product pounds represented by producers voting in favor of termination:	47.55%

**In Opposition to Terminating the Quota Implementation Plan:**

Number of producers who voted in opposition to termination:	287
Percentage of producers who voted in opposition to termination:	59.54%
April 2025 product pounds represented by producers voting in opposition to termination:	1,335,968,038
Percentage of total product pounds represented by producers voting in opposition to termination:	52.45%

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Joe Monson, Branch Chief  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Marketing Branch

December 5, 2025

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Date

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<sup>1</sup> Voting period extended to October 24, 2025 for ballots that were hand-delivered to Department by a third party in open envelopes.

