

regulatory criteria for defining appropriated fund FWS wage areas, we find that Inyo County, excluding the portion occupied by China Lake Naval Weapons Center, should be part of the Las Vegas wage area. The distance criterion is the major factor in our determination. The county is much closer to the Las Vegas survey area than to the Los Angeles survey area. Inyo County is approximately 429 km (267 miles) from Los Angeles and 194 km (120 miles) from Las Vegas. The county is approximately 203 km (126 miles) from Nellis Air Force Base, the Las Vegas wage area's host installation. We reviewed the other criteria, but they did not favor one wage area more than another. The Las Vegas, NV, FWS wage area will consist of two survey counties, Clark and Nye Counties, NV, and four area of application counties, Esmeralda and Lincoln Counties, NV, Mohave County, AZ, and Inyo County, CA.

China Lake Naval Weapons Center is located in Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties, CA. China Lake Naval Weapons Center will remain a part of the Los Angeles FWS wage area so that the installation can continue to be defined to a single wage area. The regulatory criteria we use to define FWS wage areas indicate that the main employment locations for FWS employees at China Lake are properly defined to the Los Angeles wage area.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the national labor-management committee that advises OPM on FWS pay matters, recommended these changes by consensus. Based on its review of the regulatory criteria for defining FWS wage areas, FPRAC recommended no other changes in the geographic definition of the Los Angeles FWS wage area.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they will affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages. U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

Accordingly, the Office of Personnel Management is amending 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

2. In appendix C to subpart B, the wage area listing for the State of California is amended by revising the listing for Los Angeles; and for the State of Nevada, by revising the listing for Las Vegas, to read as follows:

Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532—Appropriated Fund Wage and Survey Areas

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California

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Los Angeles

Survey Area

California:

Los Angeles

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

California:

Inyo (Includes the China Lake Naval Weapons Center portion only)

Kern (Includes the China Lake Naval Weapons Center, Edwards Air Force Base, and portions occupied by Federal activities at Boron (City) only)

Orange

Riverside (Includes the Joshua Tree National Monument portion only)

San Bernardino (All of San Bernardino County except that portion occupied by, and south and west of, the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests)

Ventura

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Nevada

Las Vegas

Survey Area

Nevada:

Clark

Nye

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

Nevada:

Esmeralda

Lincoln

Arizona:

Mohave

California:

Inyo (Excludes the China Lake Naval Weapons Center portion only)

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AJ22

Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the Philadelphia, PA, Special Wage Schedule for Printing Positions

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is issuing a final rule to abolish the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions. Printing and lithographic employees in the Philadelphia wage area will now be paid from the regular Philadelphia appropriated fund FWS wage area schedule. This change is necessary because there are no longer enough printing and lithographic employees in the wage area to conduct the local special wage survey successfully.

DATES: Effective Date: This regulation is effective on January 18, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chenty I. Carpenter by phone at (202) 606-2838, by FAX at (202) 606-4264, or by email at cicarpen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On August 17, 2000, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published an interim rule (65 FR 50127) to abolish the Philadelphia, PA, Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions. The interim rule had a 30-day period for public comment, during which we received no comments.

The Department of Defense (DOD) recommended that we abolish this special wage schedule because it has become extremely difficult for DOD to release adequate numbers of employees to conduct the local special wage survey successfully. The number of printing and lithographic employees in the wage area has declined from 117 employees in 1995 to about 5 employees currently. The decline in employees is expected to continue until there are no longer any printing and lithographic employees in the wage area. DOD found it increasingly difficult to comply with the requirement that employees paid from the special printing schedule participate in the local special wage survey process. The 1998 full-scale special wage survey required contacting 102 establishments in 5 counties in Pennsylvania and 3 counties in New Jersey.

Printing and lithographic employees converted to the Philadelphia FWS

regular wage schedule on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after September 18, 2000. Each employee's new rate of pay was set at the step rate for the applicable grade of the regular wage schedule that equaled the employee's existing rate of pay. If an employee's existing pay rate fell between two steps on the regular schedule, the new rate was to be set at the higher of the two steps.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, the national labor-management committee that advises OPM on FWS pay matters, recommended this change by consensus.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it will affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Accordingly, under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5343, the interim rule (65 FR 50127) amending 5 CFR part 532 published on August 17, 2000, is adopted as final with no changes.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 989

[Docket No. FV00-989-5 FIR]

Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (Department) is adopting, as a final rule, without change, the provisions of an interim final rule which decreased the assessment rate established for the Raisin Administrative Committee (Committee) for the 2000-01 and subsequent crop years from \$8.50 to \$6.50 per ton of free tonnage raisins acquired by handlers, and reserve tonnage raisins released or

sold to handlers for use in any market. The Committee locally administers the Federal marketing order which regulates the handling of raisins produced from grapes grown in California (order). Authorization to assess raisin handlers enables the Committee to incur expenses that are reasonable and necessary to administer the program. The crop year runs from August 1 through July 31. The assessment rate will remain in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 18, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maureen T. Pello, Marketing Specialist, California Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 2202 Monterey Street, suite 102B, Fresno, California 93721; telephone: (559) 487-5901, Fax: (559) 487-5906; or George Kelhart, Technical Advisor, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Jay Guerber, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule is issued under Marketing Agreement and Order No. 989 (7 CFR part 989), both as amended, regulating the handling of raisins produced from grapes grown in California, hereinafter referred to as the "order." The marketing agreement and order are effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to as the "Act."

The Department is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. Under the marketing order now in effect, California raisin handlers are subject to assessments. Funds to administer the order are derived from such assessments. It is intended that the assessment rate as issued herein will be applicable to all assessable raisins beginning on August 1, 2000, and continue until amended, suspended, or terminated. This rule will not preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or

policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 608c(15)(A) of the Act, any handler subject to an order may file with the Secretary a petition stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law and request a modification of the order or to be exempted therefrom. Such handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing the Secretary would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in any district in which the handler is an inhabitant, or has his or her principal place of business, has jurisdiction to review the Secretary's ruling on the petition, provided an action is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

This rule continues to decrease the assessment rate established for the Committee for the 2000-01 and subsequent crop years from \$8.50 to \$6.50 per ton of free tonnage raisins acquired by handlers, and reserve tonnage raisins released or sold to handlers for use in any market. The order authorizes volume control provisions that establish free and reserve percentages of raisins acquired by handlers. Free tonnage raisins may be sold by handlers to any outlet, and reserve tonnage raisins are held by handlers for the account of the Committee or released or sold to handlers for sale to any market. With projected assessable tonnage about 23,300 tons higher than last year's assessable tonnage, sufficient income should be generated at the lower assessment rate for the Committee to meet its anticipated expenses. This action was unanimously recommended by the Committee at a meeting on August 15, 2000.

Sections 989.79 and 989.80, respectively, of the order provide authority for the Committee, with the approval of the Department, to formulate an annual budget of expenses and collect assessments from handlers to administer the program. The members of the Committee are producers and handlers of California raisins. They are familiar with the Committee's needs and with the costs of goods and services in their local area and are thus in a position to formulate an appropriate budget and assessment rate. The assessment rate is formulated and discussed in a public meeting. Thus, all directly affected persons have